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NEARBY

Enrolment in govt. schools has declined

BENGALURU
Enrolment to government primary schools and high schools has shown a decline since the 2022-2023 academic year, according to data by the Department of School Education and Literacy.

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Fire noticed in Nagarathpete building again

BENGALURU
Fire was again noticed on the third floor of the same building at Nagarathpete where a fire had broken out earlier, creating panic among neighbours on Monday. Five persons had died in a blaze at the building on Saturday. » PAGE 3

INDIA bloc considers motion to remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Leaders say CEC behaved like a 'BJP politician' by accusing Opposition of 'spreading misinformation' and making 'politically charged accusations'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc is considering moving a motion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, seeking his removal. The idea was mooted at a meeting of floor leaders of the Opposition parties on Monday.

At a press conference on Sunday, the CEC had accused the Opposition of "spreading misinformation".

Congress leaders suggested that the Opposition should step up the pressure by moving a motion against Mr. Kumar for making 'politically charged accusations'.

Leaders from INDIA bloc parties protesting in New Delhi on Monday against the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. PTI

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal told *The Hindu*, "He spoke not like the Chief Election Commissioner but like a BJP politician. In the entire press conference, he did not answer the questions raised by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the other parties. Instead, he ridiculed the Opposition for raising the questions."

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» PAGE 10

De-escalation must go on, Jaishankar tells Wang

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The process of withdrawing troops from the Line of Actual Control needs to "move forward", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, as the two sides began discussions to improve bilateral and trade relations in Delhi on Monday.

They also prepared for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit at the end of the month.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister will meet National Security Adviser Ajit Doval for the 24th round of Special Representative talks that focuses on the resolution of the boundary dispute between India and China.

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Zelenskyy and Trump hope for trilateral talks with Putin to end war

Meeting on: Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Monday. AFP

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President Donald Trump on Monday expressed hope that their critical meeting with European leaders at the White House could lead to three-party talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to bring an end to the Ukraine war.

Mr. Trump also said he would back European security guarantees for Ukraine as European leaders gathered in Washington to show support for Kyiv.

Mr. Trump stopped short of committing U.S. troops to the effort, saying instead that there would be a "NATO-like" security presence but that all those details would be hashed out in their afternoon meeting with EU leaders.

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PUTIN DIALS MODI
» PAGE 10

POCSO case can apply to a woman too, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday refused to quash a criminal case, rarest of its kind, registered against a 52-year-old woman for allegedly compelling a 13-year-old boy to penetrative sex with her at her residence in the city.

Rejecting a petition filed by the accused woman, Justice M. Nagaprasanna ruled that sexual assault can be alleged even against a woman under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 as this law is gender neutral.

Though the alleged assault took place in 2020, the complaint was lodged by boy's mother last year after the victim, who underwent psychological distress, took four years to disclose it to his parents.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 3

The slow crawl

Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on the newly inaugurated Hebbal flyover loop connecting K.R. Puram to Mehkri Circle, on Monday.
ALLEN EGENUSE J. (REPORT, ANOTHER PHOTO PAGE 2)

Foxconn starts production of iPhone 17 at Devanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taiwanese manufacturing major Foxconn has started production of iPhone 17 from its new manufacturing facility at Devanahalli, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said on Monday.

Interestingly, this development from Foxconn, Apple's manufacturing partner in India, comes close on the heels of U.S. President Donald Trump's recent diktat to Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, that he does not want the tech giant building its products in India. Also, Apple has been ramping up manufacturing in India to reduce its dependence on China.

"Pleased to share that Foxconn has commenced production of the latest iPhone 17 at its new manufacturing facility in Devanahalli, Bengaluru. This is Foxconn's 2nd largest unit outside China, built with an investment of $2.8 billion (₹25,000 crore),'' read the Minister's post on X.

This milestone was not just about assembling smartphones, it reflected Karnataka's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing, creating thousands of jobs, strengthening supply chains, and powering India's export ambitions, he wrote.

Mr. Patil said that Apple has been scaling up its India output rapidly, and Bengaluru would play a pivotal role in making India the iPhone capital of the world. "Foxconn's operations are on track, reaffirming investor confidence in Karnataka's robust ecosystem," he further said.

Adugodi explosion: Two more die

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after an explosion caused by a suspected gas leak killed a 10-year-old and injured several others in Adugodi, a 30-year-old woman and her eight-year-old daughter succumbed to injuries on Monday, taking the toll to three.

The deceased have been identified as Kasturamma, 30, a domestic worker, and Kayal, 8, both natives of Tamil Nadu.

The police said Kayal, who had sustained burns, succumbed around 5 p.m. at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health.

Her mother died later around 8 p.m. at Victoria Hospital.

Mubarak, 10, had died on the day of the incident.

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Dharmasthala case: 'SIT waiting for tests to take probe forward'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Making it clear that the government would neither protect nor target anyone in the investigation into the alleged mass burials at Dharmasthala, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday told the Legislative Assembly that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) was waiting for the chemical analysis of soil and DNA analysis of bones, skull and skeletons to go ahead with the probe.

Responding to the allegations that there was a conspiracy to defame Dharmasthala temple through such allegations, he said the ongoing probe would look into conspiracies, if any, and also reiterated that action would be initiated against the complainant if his allegations were found to be false.

Laterite soil

"The places where the bodies are alleged to have been buried, but nothing has been found upon digging, are said to be containing laterite soil having acidic content that can corrode even bones. Hence we have sent those soil samples to FSL for chemical analysis to know if there are any human traces," the Home Minister said, while replying to a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala.

He also pointed out that a skeleton was found at one place while a few bones were found in another place. In addition to this, the complainant himself had produced a human skull. All these three items had been sent to the FSL for DNA analysis along with soil samples, he noted.

He explained that the actual probe could start only after getting these analysis reports. "For now, the SIT is waiting for the reports to further the probe," he said. The SIT itself would take a call on whether to continue the digging based on these reports, he said.

'Not under pressure'

He denied allegations that the SIT had been constituted under pressure from certain sections and said that the government had favoured it as the local police did not have the wherewithal to get FSL and DNA analysis.

Describing it as a "highly sensitive" issue, the Home Minister assured the House of ensuring a fair and transparent probe, without yielding to pressure from anyone.

Observing that Dharmasthala temple had crores of devotees who were concerned over the happenings, he sought to allay their fears.

"If nothing comes out of the ongoing probe, then the credibility and honour of Dharmasthala will increase. If truth comes out, then there is justice for the victims' families," he said.

Denying allegations that vested interests were trying to interfere, he remarked, "As long as I am the Home Minister, I will not allow any extra-constitutional authorities to meddle."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

BISWARANJAN ROUT

I have learnt to handle big back-to-back events

The national sprints record holder keen to build on the experience gained in European competitions; still nurtures hopes of making it to this year's World championships

INTERVIEW

ANIMESH KUJUR

Y.B. Sarangi

Promising 22-year-old sprinter Animesh Kujur, who has been competing tirelessly and has achieved National records in the 100m and 200m this season, has set out on the path of improvement in 2025.

Having won the Asian championships 200m bronze medal with a National record of 20.32 in Gumi, South Korea, after setting the record at 20.40 at the Federation meet in Kochi, being part of the 4x100m National record making team (38.69, Reliance) at the National Open Relay in Chandigarh and bettering the National record in 100m with an effort of 10.18 in Athens, Animesh is in the middle of his breakthrough year.

Getting used to travelling, competing in different climates and going through a hectic schedule, he is gathering invaluable experience just a year before important multi-sport Games, including the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.

A realistic Animesh is aware of the challenge of qualifying for the World championships in Japan next month. However, he nurtures hopes, however slim they maybe, of making the cut for the elite event through 'Road to Tokyo' rankings in order to gain an extraordinary exposure which may propel his growth further.

Despite his hectic schedule during India's maiden World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, he took some time to speak about his new experience this season and his quest for improvement. **Excerpts:**

How do you look back at your journey this season up to the Continental Tour?

I started the season with the National Games, and won three gold medals there. I tried but didn't get the National record. When I got 20.58 (over 200m) there, I felt that I started late. Similarly, in the 100m, I did 10.28. I couldn't execute as much as I wanted to. My body had the capability for a 10.1 race. But, I couldn't push. I started working, came to the Federation meet. That was the last competition to qualify for the Asian Championships. I qualified with a gold (and a National record of 20.40 in 200m). I was very happy because it was my first international meet.

In the Asian Championships I did well. I didn't waste much of my energy during the heats and semifinals. In the 200m final, I was having fun with the crowd. Then I won bronze in 200m clocking 20.32 and broke my National record. I was very happy. Unfortunately, the 4x100m relay was not that good. I did the relay in Taiwan and we medalled there (38.75).

Then I went to Europe, did the competition in Geneva. I got good points. Before going to Greece, I was training in Switzerland. The strength-and-conditioning coach (Chris Wolley at the Swiss Olympic Medical Centre), who used to be a sprinter, looked at my physique and told me 'I know where you are lacking.' So I mostly worked on the blocks.

When I went to Greece, I didn't expect to break my National record. I just wanted to start well. I got a chance in this competition (Dromia International Sprint). When I saw the time was 10.20 on the clock, I thought I could have done better. I went to the stands to be with my coach (Martin Owens). He said I did 10.18. Then I realised that I had broken my National record. Because without glasses I couldn't see too far and couldn't see the board which was placed at the starting point. The coach was happy and relieved.

In the Monaco Diamond League, I (competed in the under-23 section and) met a lot of people. I met Noah Lyles and Femke Bol. I saw Mondo Duplantis, but could not meet him.

What was your learning?

The main thing I learned was how to handle big back-to-back events. I saw the difference between the warm-up patterns of the elite athletes and our athletes and implemented those. I noticed that in big events, I did not get under pressure. I enjoyed those moments. I was able to compete well.

It was a first time experience for me and for my coach as well. I didn't know how to manage the competition. My coach gave me a new experience. I learned a lot. I want to improve my performance for the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games next year.

How do you rate your performance at the Continental Tour Bronze event?

For 200m, it was easy to qualify for the finals. I was on home track. I had a little pressure because it was my first international meet here. So I had to perform well. In the final, the Korean (Ko Seunghwan) did not have that much of a lead. I knew I would make a comeback (in the last 30-40m and I did so to win with 20.77). The coach asked me to maintain my form. Every athlete's form dips in the last 50m. That's why the coach asked me to maintain my form.

How do you approach a 200m race?

Oh! my secrets will be out (laughs). I always push from the curve and try to win. The straight part, the 80m, that is my main part. I maintain my form there. That is the finishing part. For every athlete, their form dips but I maintain my form. That is the best part for me.

Whenever I do a competition I give my best. For example, I did 20.40 in India. After one week I did 20.45 in Dubai and I was like, why? If I perform below-par in a competition, I get disappointed.

How do you see your chances of qualifying for the World Championships?

I don't have high expectations. I just want to do well. I performed well here and I didn't disappoint the organisers. For World Championships qualification, I am looking at the rankings. Because for 20.16, I know I have to train more.

You had been competing a lot throughout the season. Are you tired?

I went to Europe. I was competing a lot. Since the time I returned from Europe, I have been struggling with a cold. I was there for one-and-a-half months. The weather was cooler over there and suddenly it's hot and humid here. But I will get used to it again.

CM inaugurates new loop at Hebbal flyover

Construction of the loop, which includes an upramp of about 100 m and a 600-m stretch towards Mehkri Circle, began in 2024. It cost ₹80 crore and required partial closure of the flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly constructed loop at the Hebbal flyover, designed to improve connectivity for vehicles coming from K.R. Puram towards the city centre, was formally inaugurated on Monday by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The 700-metre stretch is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion at the junction, potentially saving commuters three to five minutes. This benefit extends not only to vehicles coming from K.R. Puram and Nagawara towards the city, but also to those arriving from the airport and Yelahanka.

Although a loop had existed earlier, it was too narrow to allow the smooth merging of vehicles from K.R. Puram with those from the airport heading towards the city. This created frequent slowdowns, particularly for traffic arriving from the airport. Similarly, vehicles heading towards Kodigehalli in the northern part of the city via the road beneath the flyover frequently encountered bottlenecks. The congestion also delayed vehicles travelling from K.R. Puram towards BEL Circle.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seems to be enquiring with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar his feeling as the latter sits astride his old Yezdi bike and prepares to leave during the inauguration of the new loop at he Hebbal flyover on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To resolve these issues, the State government decided to widen the ramp connecting K.R. Puram and Mehkri Circle and entrusted the work to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

Construction of the new loop, which includes an upramp of about 100 m and a 600-m stretch towards Mehkri Circle, began in 2024. The project cost ₹80 crore and required partial closure of the flyover. However, the BDA missed at least three deadlines, citing departmental clearances and heavy traffic on the flyover as reasons for the delays.

The project was finally completed at the end of July. A few days ago, the police opened the loop for trial traffic flow, during which commuters reported congestion delays near Mehkri Circle.

Phase 2 of the project

The BDA is also constructing a two-lane loop to facilitate traffic coming from Yelahanka towards the city, which is expected to further reduce congestion on the Hebbal flyover and ease movement for vehicles from Kodigehalli.

Mr. Shivakumar stated that the project is scheduled for completion by November. He noted that the overall cost of the works stands at ₹300 crore. "The plan has been made to extend the two-lane connectivity into six lanes," he said.

He also highlighted the 16.5-km twin-tunnel road linking Esteem Mall junction and Silk Board junction, which is expected to streamline traffic at the Hebbal junction.

About two weeks ago, the Deputy Chief Minister had announced another tunnel project after inspecting the newly built loop. On Monday, he reiterated the plan, explaining that the 1.5-km tunnel will connect Esteem Mall junction and Agricultural University in northern Bengaluru. It is intended to facilitate traffic flow from K.R. Puram towards the Airport and further northern areas of the city.

DKS does trial ride on his bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mr. Shivakumar brought along his newly restored Yezdi motorcycle for a trial ride on the new K.R. Puram loop. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagged off the ride, and the Deputy Chief Minister rode the bike he had used during his college days. He had purchased the motorcycle for ₹10,400 back then.

Traffic snarls in the area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Meanwhile, due to the inauguration programme, minor traffic snarls were reported in the Hebbal area. The event, combined with regular weekday traffic, led to slowed down traffic at several junctions in the locality.

MP's remarks

Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament from Bangalore South, took to X to describe his ordeal while taking the Hebbal flyover.

"On my way to Delhi this morning to attend Parliament, I was stuck at Hebbal Junction for nearly 50 minutes along with thousands of others and almost missed my flight," he wrote. He criticised the State government for choosing Monday morning peak hours as the time for the flyover's inauguration.

However, a senior traffic police officer in charge of the area clarified: "A SWITCH BMTC bus suffered a mechanical issue due to a technical glitch. It took us about two hours to clear it, which prolonged the traffic problem."

He further pointed out that many commuters slowed down to watch the programme and the decorations, which also added to the congestion.

Longlist for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2025 announced

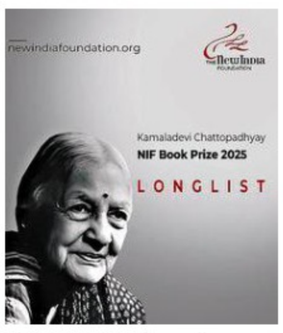
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The New India Foundation (NIF) has announced the Longlist for Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2025, featuring ten exceptional works of nonfiction writing on modern and contemporary India.

These works, published in the last year, explore a wide range of themes like biographies of pioneering leaders, cultural icons, political movements, social change, and communities that have shaped India's trajectory.

List of books

The books that have made it to the longlist include *Savarkar and the Making of Hindutva* by Janaki Bakhle, *India's Forgotten Country: A View from the Margins* by Bela Bhatia, *Iru: The Remarkable Life of Irawati Karve* by Urmilla Deshpande and Thiago Pinto Barbosa, *India's Near East: A New History* by Avinash Paliwal, *Gods, Guns and Missionaries: The Making of the Modern Hindu Identity* by Manu Pillai, *Engineering a Nation: The Life and Career of M. Visvesvaraya* by Aparajith Ramnath, *The Backstage of Democracy: India's Election Campaigns and the People Who Manage Them* by Amogh Dhar Sharma, *Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: The Art of Freedom* by Nico Slate, *Iconoclast: A Reflective Biography of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar* by Anand Teltumbde, and *The Gujaratis: A Portrait of a Community* by Salil Tripathi.



The winning author will be awarded a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

The jury which selected the longlist included chairman of Tata Sons and Tata Group N. Chandrasekaran, entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, political scientist Niraja Gopal Jayal, historian Srinath Raghavan, partner trilegal Rahul Matthan, Ambassador Jawed Ashraf and Yamini Aiyar. The winning author will be awarded a cash prize of ₹15 lakh. The shortlist will be announced in October 2025 and the winner will be announced on December 6, during Bangalore Literature Festival.

Largest Book Prize

Instituted in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Book Prize is India's largest book prize for non-fiction, open to writers of all nationalities who have worked on any aspect of Indian history after Independence. The work can be originally written in English or translated into English, and welcomes a wide range of non-fiction genres.

Ashok Gopal won last year's Book Prize for *A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B.R. Ambedkar (Navayana)*.

Now, raise a cybercrime complaint with ease

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Victims of cybercrime can now raise a complaint with the cybercrime police station at the click of a button and a QR code scan.

"In addition to providing required details related to the cybercrime, this system will also help people to file the complaint with just a click and scan of the QR code without having to go to the station or waiting for the police officials concerned," Superintendent of Police, C.K. Baba, said .

But citizens will have to go to the station to register a formal complaint with supporting documents.

With the concept of "ACE" it - act, which stands for 'act' immediately , lodge 'complaint,' and provide 'evidence' for quick response - it will help the people to not only prevent cybercrimes but also takes you to links with information, he added .

Claiming it to be first of its kind, Mr. Baba said that the information is made available in English and Kannada.

The information contains important links, names and contact numbers of the police stations and officials, and dos and don'ts of cybercrime.

Features

The people friendly initiative has many features, including the case status update and links to raise complaint directly in case of social media account hack report.

This is going to save the time and resources of the people and the police officials concerned who are connected to the system, officials added.

The QR code facility is going to be extended to other stations, where people can access required details of their jurisdictional or any police station at their fingertips and get required details, including case updates.

Don't panic over heart attacks: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Asking the public not to panic over heart attacks, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday said that the data does not show any significant increase.

5% to 6% cases only

"Lifestyle changes can prevent heart attack episodes. Though concerns have been raised over heart attacks, there has been no significant increase. On an average, 5% to 6% of the cases are heart-related. The trend remains the same this year too," the Minister told Legislative Council in response to a question from Congress member Dinesh Gooligowda. "Isolated incidents should not create panic among public."

The Minister also clarified that lifestyle has been major contributor to heart attacks.

Dr. Patil said that there has been no evidence to link post-COVID-19 effects to heart attack cases, and a committee, led by K.S. Rabindranath, director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, and a task force set up by the Health department have dismissed any link between the two.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

CHAMPIONS IN INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

National Public School, North secured a resounding victory at the Interschool Football Tournament hosted by Navaprajna Public School. The Under-16 team lifted the coveted trophy with a commanding 3–1 win, showcasing exceptional teamwork, resilience, and tactical brilliance. From start to finish, the players demonstrated remarkable precision, composure, and coordination, captivating spectators with their skill and determination. The field buzzed with energy as the final whistle signalled jubilant celebrations and a proud moment for the school. This triumph stands as a testament to the team's unity, relentless spirit, and sporting excellence.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Poornaprajna Education Centre, Indiranagar conducted their Investiture Ceremony with great pride and solemnity, marking the formal induction of the newly elected student council representing the five houses – Aapah, Agni, Akash, Prithvi, and Vayu. The event was graced by Mr. Ajit Kumar S.V., Sub-Inspector of Police, Jeevan Bhimanagar Police Station, as Chief Guest. Principal Brigadier Hande and her team were also present to witness the occasion. The ceremony emphasised leadership, discipline, and responsibility, inspiring students to uphold the institution's values and contribute with integrity to the school community.

SAVISHKAR EXHIBITION 2025-26

RNS International School hosted the Savishkar Exhibition 2025–26, a vibrant showcase of innovative projects reflecting excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. The event was inaugurated by the School Management, who praised the creativity and ingenuity of students. The ceremony featured shloka recitals by nursery children and traditional dance performances. Students across all grades displayed projects such as Robotics Space Station, RNSIS Commercial Street, music concerts, theatre, India's physical features, art installations, and cultural displays. The exhibition stood as a testament to the school's commitment to holistic education and experiential learning.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase property described in Schedule below from **Shri Anil Kumar Bagadi,** son of B. Joga Rao, who has represented that he is the absolute owner in possession and that the property is free from any encumbrance/s, charge/s, claim/s, demand/s or litigation/s.
Person/s claiming any right, title or interest in or upon the Schedule Property and / or having any objection to the proposed transaction, may lodge their objection/s supported by documents with the undersigned within **Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection/s is/are received within the said period, my client will go ahead with the transaction deeming that there is / are no claim/s or objection/s to the same.

SCHEDULE

Flat No.601 on 6th Floor Block-C in Apartment Complex 'Ahad Opus' having carpet area of 724.61 Sq.ft. or 1102.48 Sq.ft. super built-up area, constructed on converted land in Sy.No.199/1 measuring 11938.13 Sq.mts. in **Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District,** together with **486 Sq.ft. undivided share** in the said land and proportionate interest in common areas with right to use **Car Parking Slot No.C-601, assigned Property No.150200400400122720.**

Smita Singh, Advocate,
827, 12th Main, IV Block,
HBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043,
Email: smitasinghadvocate@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore **Date : 19.08.2025**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- 2 BENGALURU
B.S.N.L. Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road Bengaluru, Pincode-560001

OA 1650/2019

BETWEEN
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
BENGALURU-560001
..... **APPLICANT**

AND
1. SRI. GODUGHU CHINTA VIVEK REDDY
2. SRI. DIVYA MURTHY KALUVAKOLANU
..... **DEFENDANTS**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULES 23(Viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT

Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of debts due to Bank and financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for Recovery a sum of **Rs.71,49,665/- (Rupees Seventy one lakh forty nine thousand six hundred and sixty five only)** together with current and future interest and others reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the date of 10.11.25 at 10.30 A.M in person or why a pleader/ Advocate duly instituted as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on 04th day of August 2025.

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar D.R.T-II Bangalore

1. Sri. Godughu Chinta Vivek Reddy
Aged about 37 years,
S/o. Sri. Surendranatha Reddy,
Residing at No. 1315, 22nd Main,
11th 'B' Cross, HSR Layout, Sector - 1,
Bangalore 560 102.

2. Sri. Divya Murthy Kaluvakolanu
Aged about 48 years,
S/o. Sri. K. Sadananda
Residing at No. 142, 1st Floor, 1 'C' Main,
Venkateshwara Temple Road, HSR Layout,
Sector - 1, Bangalore 560 102.
....DEFENDANTS

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

Actress Amrutha Prem Inaugurated Three-Day "The Jewellery Show"

Recently renowned actress Amrutha Prem inaugurated "The Jewellery Show", a grand exhibition cum sale featuring over 50 top jewellery brands from across India. The event was held at Sheraton Grand Hotel from August 15 to 17 (Friday to Sunday). The show was organized by Golden Creeper founders Jagadeesh B.N. and Hemalatha Jagadeesh. Actress Amrutha Prem Inaugurates Three-Day "The Jewellery Show". Jewellery has always held a special place in the hearts of women–not just as adornment but also as a trusted investment. The show featured award-winning and reputed jewellery houses, making it an ideal platform for buyers seeking quality and variety. Residents of Bengaluru and surrounding areas explored and purchased jewellery crafted by skilled artisans from across India. The exhibition showcased distinctive styles and exclusive designs, with all gold jewellery certified by BIS Hallmark and diamond pieces verified by GIA/ IGI international standards. Jewellery brand representatives were available to provide detailed information about gold and diamond jewellery. Customers could also exchange old gold and receive after-sales support even after the exhibition concludes.

Adigas organise a holy and devine journey in Pitru Paksha

ADIGAS is having an exclusive knowledge of 3 decades in the field of holy yatras and has announced its special dates for this Pitrupaksha starting from September 7th. There are 2 options for this yatra, the first one is KASHI, GAYA, PRAYAG, AYODHYA, CHITRAKOOT WITH NAIMISHARANYA, which is of 9 days and the second one is of 6 days covering KASHI, GAYA, PRAYAG AND AYODHYA. This yatra includes the special arrangements with catering team, comfortable safe journey Ac coaches and rooms for night stay with local guides service with experienced tour manager. As the duration of this Pitru Paksha is only for a limited period of 15 days there is a huge demand for the booking. Hence, the Founder of ADIGAS, Mr. K. Nagaraj Adiga has requested to book the seats immediately to avoid the last-minute inconveniences. For more details one can visit our Bangalore branches - Basavanagudi, Vijaya Nagar, Malleshwara, Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Hubballi. OR can contact on Email: care@adigasyatra.com / Website: www.adigasyatra.com.

Unveiling the future : Revolutionary advances in Hearing & Technology

As we reflect on the progress of our beloved India every Independence Day, it's also crucial to turn our attention to advancements in healthcare technology, particularly in the field of audiology. Shreya Hearing Clinic, a pioneering institution in the realm of hearing care, has been at the forefront of assessing and embracing the future of hearing aids. Dr. Sathya Ranna, Ph.D., the driving force behind Shreya Hearing Clinic, sheds light on the remarkable evolution and cutting-edge features shaping the landscape of hearing aid technology. Hearing aids, which fundamentally comprised of a microphone, processor, receiver and power source, have seen transformative changes in recent years.

Today, the "superfecta" features of hearing aids include a telecoil, Bluetooth connectivity, pleasing / discreet designs and rechargeable batteries, which have been instrumental in enhancing user experience. Premium hearing aids now incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) to access deep neural networks to process sound. Dr. Ranna explains that essentially, a DNN mimics how the brain processes sound in individuals without hearing impairments. The integration of smartphone apps has revolutionised the way users interact with their hearing aids. Advanced hearing aids incorporate directional microphone systems, digital noise reduction, impulse noise reduction, wind noise reduction, feedback management systems and data logging, collectively enhancing the listening experience in various environments.

Directional microphone systems are designed to boost sounds coming from the front of the wearer and reduce sounds coming from other directions. Dr. Sathya Ranna illustrates the practical benefits of these features by envisioning a scenario in a bustling restaurant. Upholding the commitment to provide cutting-edge solutions, Shreya Hearing Clinic announces a free demo of advanced hearing aids from August 15th to August 21st 2025. This initiative allows individuals to experience firsthand the transformative capabilities of the latest hearing aid technology. As the future of hearing aids unfolds, Shreya Hearing Clinic continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the auditory landscape, ensuring that individuals with hearing impairments can enjoy a life rich in sound and communication.

The government procures ethanol either from sugarcane-based raw materials like C-heavy molasses, B-heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar, or sugar syrup, or damaged food grains like broken rice, maize, or cellulosic and lignocellulosic materials. KARTHIKEYAN G.

What does science say about the govt.'s ethanol blending plan?

The ethanol push echoes past global experiments. Unlike the most celebrated example, Brazil, which began decades ago in an studied manner, India's more rapid move towards blending has left drivers grappling with practical issues of mileage, corrosion, and higher service costs

Priyali Prakash

In 2021, the Government of India said it will move to 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025 with the two-pronged goal of cutting carbon emissions and reducing the country's dependence on foreign oil.

While vehicles modified to be compatible with the new composition started rolling out in April 2025, the government's push for 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20) has left vehicle-owners worried about the impact on their older vehicles and about a surge in maintenance costs.

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is a biofuel: it is made from plant waste called biomass. Regular petrol is a hydrocarbon made from the fossilised remains of organic matter buried for millions of years.

When mixed with a fossil fuel like petrol, ethanol acts as an oxygenate that helps the petrol burn better.

Making ethanol

Under India's ethanol-blending programme, the government procures ethanol either from sugarcane-based raw materials like C-heavy molasses, B-heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar, or sugar syrup, or damaged food grains like broken rice, maize, or cellulosic and lignocellulosic materials.

Molasses is a byproduct of sugarcane production. It is a thick, dark syrup about 40% rich in sugars that can be fermented but which can't be extracted further.

C-heavy molasses is the final byproduct of the sugar production process, with molasses content around 28-32%. B-heavy molasses is an intermediate byproduct of the same process and has a higher molasses content, ranging from 48% to 52%.

Ethanol is made from molasses by fermentation – using yeast enzymes to catalyse the breakdown of sugar molecules in the presence of water. An everyday example of fermentation is ginger soda. If you put ginger, sugar, and water in an airtight container for a few days, it becomes fizzy.

This is because the microbes in ginger feed on the sugar, releasing carbon dioxide, which makes carbonic acid with water.

In the first step of ethanol production from molasses, sucrose molecules in the syrup are diluted with water. Then they break down into glucose molecules in the presence of invertase.

These glucose molecules further react in the presence of zymase to form ethanol and release carbon dioxide.

Producing ethanol from food grains and lignocellulosic materials also involves other processes that break them down to fermentable sugars first. Lignocellulosic biomass is plant matter with a high carbohydrate content and is usually composed of parts not used for food or feed. This biomass is rich in cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin.

Chemical nature, energy efficiency

Two factors are key to understanding ethanol's energy efficiency: the calorific value and the octane number.

The calorific value of a fuel denotes its yield: a higher calorific value means more energy. The calorific value of ethanol is significantly lower than that of petrol, so the fuel's overall burning efficiency should theoretically decrease. However, the government has maintained that the drop in fuel performance is not significant and that it is governed by a mix of other factors, including "driving habits, maintenance practices such as oil changes and air filter cleanliness, tyre pressure and alignment, and even air conditioning load."

The octane number is a measure of a fuel's resistance to engine knocking or burning prematurely. Ethanol has a higher octane number than petrol. Thus, it has the potential to reduce the knock resistance significantly. However, because of its lower energy content, the amount of energy the engine can extract per litre of blended fuel decreases with increasing ethanol content.

This said, the drop in mileage drivers have raised concerns about won't be significant, Sudheer Kumar Kuppili, a research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said.

"The compensation for having lower energy would be quite low when you are moving from E10 to E20," Kuppili said. "It would be significant only when we shift to 100% ethanol. Most of the uproar these days about the reduction in vehicular mileage is fuelled by many factors, which are difficult to assess."

In fact, experts said the thing to focus on here is ethanol's hygroscopic nature. That is, ethanol has a considerable tendency to attract and attach water molecules to itself. This in turn affects the vehicle's components and fuel performance in new ways.

Independent expert Noble Varghese said the main concern is the increased possibility of corrosion.

"Ethanol affects the rubber components of a fuel system, which are mainly the piping, the fuel tank, the injectors, the filters, and the combustion chambers. The combustion chamber and the engine block itself are not as affected by ethanol, but what is affected is the fuel tank, the rubber piping, and the injector," Varghese said.

"Ethanol tends to attract water, so if the vehicle is not used everyday, water tends to collect in the fuel tank, which is corrosive for the tank. This causes another problem too: rust particles mix with fuel and go into the fuel line and clog it," he added.

"That in itself will reduce the mileage. This is not primarily because of ethanol's thermodynamic properties but more because of the components, which are not suited to E20 fuel."

> When the blending happens, it alters the stoichiometric ratio, i.e., air-to-fuel ratio, which in turn affects the speed of combustion and heat release
>
> **SUDHEER KUMAR KUPPILI**
> LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

The government has, however, maintained that replacing older rubber parts and gaskets designed for the non-blended fuel is "inexpensive and can be easily managed during routine servicing."

A statement released by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) on August 12 also said this change would be required only "once in the lifetime of the vehicle" and at "any authorised workshop."

Kuppili also said moisture won't be a significant problem.

"This might be a problem for older vehicles, which are probably already worn out. This should not be a problem for BS-IV or BS-VI vehicles. The fuel's hygroscopic nature might have a noticeable effect when you are in colder parts of the country. However, in those regions, fuels are usually mixed with additives to avoid freezing," he explained.

"Also, when you are using a vehicle regularly, any moisture that accumulates will be evaporated by the high engine temperatures (>400° C)," he said.

Kuppili wished to clarify that he hasn't worked on this particular issue of the fuels.

Comparisons with Brazil

Comparing the Indian ethanol-blending story with that of Brazil may not be justified, as the South American country currently uses E27 petrol as well and paced this upgrade out over decades.

Brazil first decided to lower its dependence on imported petrol in 1975 with its Proálcool programme during the oil crisis in the 1970s. Over the next few years, it focused on building capacity by working with researchers, expanding the production of ethanol from sugarcane with the specific purpose of mixing it with petrol, providing subsidies, incentives, and tax breaks to reduce the costs of production, and increasing the competitiveness of ethanol.

The country also has a large market for vehicles fit with flex-fuel engines that allow vehicles to readily adapt to petrol with different ethanol fractions.

This isn't the case with Indian vehicles. According to Varghese, the electronic control unit in an engine is hypersensitive to fuel content, which it detects automatically.

"If you put more ethanol in fuel, its chemical properties change, and therefore the engine management system has to be able to adapt, and older cars might not be able to do that," he said.

By way of solution, he said mechanics could quickly connect the unit to a computer and update the fuel composition setting.

However, one senior industry executive told *The Hindu* that vehicles that don't have electronic control units and injectors can't be made compatible with E20 as fuel. The executive said "about 95%" of all vehicles until the rollout of the BS-VI emission standards (in April 2020) were mechanically carbureted, meaning they didn't utilise any electronic units with sensors to regulate the delivery and treatment of fuel.

"When the blending happens, it alters the stoichiometric ratio, i.e., air-to-fuel ratio, which in turn affects the speed of combustion and heat release," Kuppili said. "Modern vehicles have sensors called electronic control units, which monitor the oxygen content and alter the amount of fuel and air needed."

With ethanol-blended petrol, he added, "you would need less air than usual, as ethanol has an oxygen atom. So this reduction can actually reduce pollutant emissions such as NOX, PM, and CO."

"The ethanol-blending policy itself is excellent. It has been successful in other parts of the world," Varghese said. "The ideas of energy security and saving import duty are excellent and true. It just needs to be paced better."

The principle of recalibration

The executive said the sensor's main purpose is to manage the spark timing – which determines the release pattern of the fuel and combustion inside the cylinder.

The electronic control unit uses the spark plug to create the spark that ignites the fuel-air blend in the combustion chamber. Older vehicles, i.e., those lacking the unit, have been tuned to a different fuel and are thus hard-coded for a different spark timing.

Since E20 brings more oxygen to the fuel-air mix, the executive explained, engines may have to be recalibrated by, among other measures, advancing the pressure for combustion and its eventual timing by two to three degrees. In other words, the engine will have to make sure combustion happens earlier so that there are no issues with starting the vehicle and with maintaining an adequate air-fill ratio across all load conditions and speeds.

This customisation isn't possible with mechanically carbureted vehicles.

The executive also affirmed that the adjustment would increase cost.

"You have to pay the calibration engineer and the vehicle component engineers," he said. The latter "charge good money."

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

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Meteorite NWA 16788 in New York on July 8, 2025. REUTERS

Auction of Mars meteorite sparks debate on ownership

Agence France Presse

The recent auction of a Martian meteorite – for a record-grabbing $5.3 million at Sotheby's in New York – has sparked questions over its provenance and renewed debate over who gets to claim rocks fallen from the heavens.

The hefty 25-kilogram stone is the largest Martian meteorite ever discovered on the earth, according to its Sotheby's listing, and was found in November 2023 in the vast Saharan desert in Niger.

The government of Niger has announced that it will open an investigation following the auction, saying it appears to "have all the characteristics of illicit international trafficking."

On August 8, the government suspended exports of precious stones and meteorites until further notice.

Sotheby's has rejected the accusations, insisting that the meteorite "was exported from Niger and transported in line with all relevant international procedures."

In light of the controversy, however, a review of the case is underway, a Sotheby's spokesperson said.

"The stone journeyed 140 million miles through space, and hurtled through the earth's atmosphere before crashing in the Sahara Desert," the Sotheby's listing said.

Following its discovery, the jagged, ochre-colored stone was then sold to an international dealer, briefly exhibited in Italy, and eventually ended up in the auction catalog in New York.

For American paleontologist Paul Sereno, who has worked with Niger's authorities for years, all signs suggest that the stone left the country "illicitly."

Much larger than other Martian meteorites, it offers a unique insight into the geological history of the red planet

"Everybody's anonymous – from the person who found it, the dealers, to the guy who bought it, everybody's anonymous," he told AFP, making no secret of his frustration.

"If they had put on baseball gloves and caught the meteorite as it was hurtling towards Earth before it landed in any country, they could claim it... but I'm sorry, it landed there. It belongs to Niger," he said.

'We should respect it'

Laws governing the ownership of meteorites vary based on point of impact.

In the United States, for example, if a rock falls on private land, the property owners have ownership rights.

In Niger, however, a law governs "national cultural patrimony," which includes rare mineralogical specimens, according to Matthieu Gounelle, a professor at France's National History Museum, and his father, Max Gounelle, a French university professor.Both are specialists in regulations governing the collection and sale of meteorites.

"In our opinion, there is no doubt that meteorites should be included among the rare mineralogical specimens" protected by Nigerien law, they said.

Beyond the legal battle and the possible involvement of a trafficking network, the sale of the meteorite also raises science ethics questions.

The rock, named NWA 16788, has unique scientific research value.

Much larger than other Martian meteorites that have been recorded to date, it offers a unique insight into the geological history of the red planet.

Like other Martian meteorites, it is believed to have been ejected into space when an asteroid slammed into Mars.

"This is nature's heritage. In many ways, it's world heritage, and it's telling us things about the cosmos. We should respect it," Sereno said.

"It's not something, to my mind, that should be auctioned off to potentially disappear into someone's mantle."

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Offence of sexually assaulting a minor can be alleged even against a woman, rules HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Declaring that the offence of penetrative sexual assault can be alleged even against a woman under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, as this law is gender-neutral, the High Court of Karnataka on Monday refused to quash a criminal case against a 52-year-old woman, who allegedly compelled a 13-year-old boy for sex with her at her residence here during 2020.

The two instances of sexual assaults had allegedly taken place between May and June, 2020, when the accused woman Archana, an artist aged around 48 and the boy who was around 13 years and 10 months old then.

The accused, who was the boy's neighbour, had come in contact with him through his mother, who initially sent him to the house of the accused to help her post her paintings on her Instagram account following the request made by the accused.

Boy distressed

The boy, who was psychologically distressed, had immediately not disclosed the alleged acts to his parents, who later decided to settle down in Dubai and shifted there in August, 2020, along with him and his younger sister.

He disclosed the alleged acts only in 2024 and narrated details to a therapist in Dubai, and then the complaint was lodged with the HAL police station by the boy's mother in June, 2024.

The boy was aged around 17 when his statements were recorded by the magistrate and the child protection officer. It was alleged that accused woman had convinced the boy not to disclose the acts with anyone, stating that both of them would be in trouble. The accused woman's husband and daughter are said to be living abroad.

'Law is clear'

Rejecting the argument on behalf of the accused that offence of aggravated sexual assaults or rape cannot be invoked against a woman, the court pointed out that Sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act makes it clear that anyone who "compels a minor child to do penetrative or other sexual acts with him or other persons", is an offender.

Though the pronoun "he" and its derivatives were not defined under the POCSO Act, which only states that a child is any person below the age of 18, Justice M. Nagaprasanna, relying on the definitions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), held that the pronoun "he" and its derivatives in POCSO will also have to be used, "of any person, whether male or female."

"The language of the provision clearly indicates inclusivity," the court observed.

It was argued on behalf of the accused that the victim boy could not have had an erection if he was in shock when the accused had allegedly made sexual advances. However, the court said, quoting a study, "State of shock is a psychological concept. Erection is purely a physiological or a biological concept. Psychological concepts would not sometimes control physiological and biological actions."

No stereotypes

To the submission that in an intercourse the woman is only a passive participant and a man is an active participant, the court pointed out that "this thought itself is archaic". It said that the jurisprudence of the present times "does not allow stereotypes to cloud legal scrutiny".

The delay of four years in registering the complaint and non-conduct of potency test of the boy, cannot become the reason for quashing the case, owing to the alleged offence and the age of the victim boy, the court said.

11 injured

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

As many as 11 people, including two bus drivers and a conductor, suffered injuries in an accident involving a public transport bus and a truck in Haveri district on Monday

Nagarathpete mishap: Fire noticed in same building again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fire was again noticed on the third floor of the same building at Nagarathpete where a fire had broken out earlier, creating panic among neighbours on Monday. Five persons had died in a blaze at the building on Saturday.

However, no one was injured since the building was evacuated. A fire tender rushed to the spot and put out the fire. Residents urged the police to shift the LPG cylinders kept in the building to ensure safety.

Meanwhile, the probe into the fire mishap continued on Monday with the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and Bescom officials investigating to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. The police were told by neighbours and eye-witnesses that they had noticed sparks from power lines for three days prior to the accident and brought it to the notice of the building owner.

The police also traced the seven people, including a family living on the second floor and who escaped by jumping to the adjacent building soon after noticing the fire.

The residents are part of Mohan Lal's family, who is a businessman living in the same lane. They told the police that they noticed thick smoke filling the building and ran to the terrace and jumped to the adjacent building.

The FSL team also inspected the area and checked the LPG cylinders to rule out the possibility of cylinder leakage.

The victims, Madan Kumar, 36, his wife Sangeeta, 32, their children Mithesh, 8, and Vihan, 5, and neighbour Suresh Kumar, 26, were charred to death.

Madan Kumar had rented and worked in the ground floor unit in his shop Madan Steels, while Suresh worked and slept in the godown on the second floor. The fire, suspected to have been triggered by an electric short-circuit, broke out a little after 3 a.m. on the ground floor of the ground-plus-four storeyed building on a 36x57 ft plot in the narrow Rajanna Lane in Thigalarpet in Nagarathpete.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel struggled to reach the building due to narrow lanes and stairs to climb up the building and due to heat, taking them over 10 hours to contain the fire.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 19	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:38
RISE 02:05	SET 15:35
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:38
RISE 03:08	SET 16:31
THURSDAY, AUG. 21	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:37
RISE 04:09	SET 17:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	24
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	26	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Advertiser's Feature

Explore A Sea of Opportunities With Kerala's Maritime Board

In the coastal expanse of Kerala, a new era of maritime business innovation is unfolding, promising economic gains, sustainable development, job creation, and global connectivity. Helming this promising new journey is the Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) under the Government of Kerala, which is throwing open its doors to private partners, investors, and industry leaders.

With 17 notified ports dotting the coastline, the Kerala Maritime Board boasts an impressive portfolio of assets, including prime port lands, warehouses, machinery, waterfront properties, buildings, maritime institutes, lighthouses, water-based assets, and movable port equipment. These resources are primed for development across diverse sectors like maritime industry, tourism, education, logistics, and port infrastructure.

The Maritime Board's attempt is to reimagine the State's non-major ports as vibrant hubs of opportunity, not just by building ports, but also by crafting a legacy of shared success through public-private partnerships (PPP) that blend innovation, efficiency, and mutual growth. The PPP projects on offer are as diverse as they are inspiring: from port operations and coastal cargo to cruise shipping, maritime enclaves, marine parks, multimodal transit yards, wayside amenities, beach-side developments, leisure hubs, walkways, promenades, hospitality zones, logistical warehouses, port-led industries, adventure water sports, and lighthouse tourism ventures.

Says N.S. Pillai, IA&AS, Chairperson of the Kerala Maritime Board, "The maritime potential of the State is not yet exploited to its full potential. So, there are ample opportunities for investors to partner with us to exploit the valuable assets under our control, particularly the four functional non-major ports and a lot of other landed properties coming under port jurisdiction."

KMB has crafted a robust framework to ensure that the investors get attractive returns even as the State benefits in the form of jobs and revenue. "We are ready to handhold any fruitful investor to use the assets under our control to generate revenue,

Beypore Port

Port Bungalow, Kozhikode

create maximum employment and augment the consolidated fund of the State government in the form of GST and for the development of the ancillary facilities around the ports." Investors, he says, can design, build, finance, and operate projects for an initial 30 years, extendable by another 15 years with government approval—all without interference, ensuring a hassle-free business environment.

Building from ground up

At the heart of KMB's strategy is port-led growth, blending greenfield and brownfield opportunities. For those eyeing fresh starts, greenfield sites at Kasargod, Ponnani, and Kayamkulam offer blank canvases for ambitious developments. Meanwhile, functional ports like Kovalam-Vizhinjam, Kollam, Beypore, and Azhikkal are set for upgrades under PPP mode, with government approvals imminent and tenders on the horizon.

Mr. Pillai highlights the proactive steps: "Kerala Maritime Board has floated expressions of interest in many of these properties. Shortly, the rest of the properties under its command would also be offered for development in the PPP mode."

> WE HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE BUSINESS POTENTIAL, WHAT WE NEED ARE RELIABLE PARTNERS, WHO WOULD BE HERE FOR THE LONG TERM
>
> **SHINE A HAQ**
> CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KMB.

The Kerala Maritime Board has two maritime institutes at Neendakara and Kodungallur. These are now open for private investment, with a Request for Proposal (RFP) already floated for Neendakara. These centres aim to shape skilled professionals, driving innovation in the sector and creating a talent pipeline that benefits partners and the State alike.

Coastal cargo, cruise shipping

The Kerala Maritime Board's four functional non-major ports, equipped with ISPS and ICP status, are ready to handle international cargo and passenger operations, ensuring seamless connectivity between these ports and major gateways like Kochi and Vizhinjam, with links to non-major ports in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. "We have the infrastructure and the business potential, what we need are reliable partners. Our promise is a quality relationship that is for the long term," says Shine A Haq, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), KMB.

Besides cargo, the KMB has also been pushing ahead with proposals for passenger and semi-cruise services, including routes to the Middle East and between littoral States in India. Some maritime boards from other States have already evinced interest in collaborating with KMB, opening doors for private vessel operators. To sweeten the deal, KMB is offering operational support and concessions on port charges during the initial phase. It's a sector brimming with promise, where investments can sail toward high returns while enhancing tourism and trade, points out Mr. Haq.

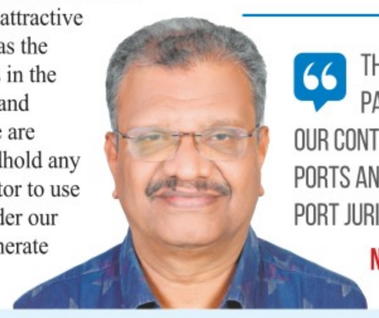
Specialized opportunities

There are also several other opportunities. For niche players, dry docking sites in Kollam, Kasaragod, Ponnani, and Kodungallur present untapped potential amid growing demand for repair and maintenance hubs. These facilities could become essential service points, supporting the broader maritime ecosystem. There are also in KMB's possession port-attached land parcels, which are ideal for industries, tourism infrastructure, and allied businesses. Soon, detailed surveys will be available on KMB's website, inviting investors for one-on-one discussions. With such a supportive ecosystem, this is clearly the perfect time to ride the wave of opportunity in Kerala.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
Chief Minister of Kerala

V.N. VASAVAN
Minister for Ports of Kerala

> THERE ARE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS TO PARTNER WITH US TO EXPLOIT THE VALUABLE ASSETS UNDER OUR CONTROL, PARTICULARLY THE FOUR FUNCTIONAL NON-MAJOR PORTS AND A LOT OF OTHER LANDED PROPERTIES COMING UNDER PORT JURISDICTION
>
> **N.S. PILLAI** IA&AS (RETD.), CHAIRMAN, KMB.



AMBITIOUS PARTNERSHIP AGENDA

- **Kerala Maritime Education and Edutainment Hub**
  Neendakara, Kollam
  Ideal for: Maritime Education
  Stage: RFP
- **Maritime Enclave**
  Port Bungalow, Kozhikode
  Ideal for: Tourism and hospitality
  Stage: RFP
- **Marine Park**
  Ponnani, Malappuram
  Ideal for: Tourism and hospitality
  Stage: RFP
- **Wayside Amenities Centre**
  Kozhikode
  Ideal for: Tourism/ Hospitality
  Stage: RFP
- **Lakefront Leisure and Entertainment Hub**
  Asramam, Kollam
  Ideal for: Tourism and hospitality
  Stage: RFP
- **Development of South Beach**
  Kozhikode
  Ideal for: Mixed Opportunities
  Stage: RFP
- **Multimodal Transit Yard**
  North Beach, Kozhikode
  Ideal for: Parking
  Stage: RFP
- **The Promenade**
  Thalassery
  Ideal for: Tourism
  Stage: EOI
- **Ponnani Port**
  Malappuram
  Ideal for: Port development
  Stage: EOI
- **Riverside Hospitality Zone**
  Thalangara, Kasaragod
  Ideal for: Tourism and hospitality
  Stage: EOI
- **Lighthouse Tourism**
  Kozhikode Beach
  Ideal for: Tourism
  Stage: EOI
- **Cruise and passenger Shipping**
  Ideal for: Maritime Tourism
  Stage: EOI
- **Coastal Cargo**
  Ideal for: N/A
  Stage: EOI/Open for discussions
- **Middle East-Kerala Passenger Ferry**
  Ideal for: N/A
  Stage: EOI
- **Maritime Tourism Lighthouses**
  Valiyathura, Vizhinjam, Azhikkal, Thiruvananthapuram
  Ideal for: Tourism/Logistics
  Stage: In pipeline
- **Port-linked Tourism**
  Kodungallur
  Ideal for: Tourism/Hospitality
  Stage: In pipeline
- **Ship building**
  Kodungallur
  Ideal for: Ship Building/Repair
  Stage: In pipeline
- **Maritime Tourism**
  Port, Alappuzha
  Ideal for: Marina
  Stage: In pipeline

KERALA MARITIME BOARD, 1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building, Pipinmoodu, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram-695010
Phone: 0471 2910040 | WhatsApp : +91 95444 10029 | Email: kmb.kerala@gmail.com | www.kmb.kerala.gov.in

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Fine imposed on Qantas airline for illegally sacking staff

59 in $ million. Qantas decided to sack the workers and outsource their jobs in August 2020 during the pandemic. Its fine is to be paid in two parts, the court said, with 50 million Australian dollars going to the Transport Workers Union and 40 million being held for future payments. AFP

Number of candidates to be fielded by AAP in Gujarat local bodies

10,000 Gujarat Aam Aadmi Party president Isudan Gadhvi and general secretary Manoj Sorathiya released "nomination papers" for candidates and claimed the party has emerged as a credible political option in the State. PTI

Amount sanctioned to improve infra in 29 Amaravati villages

904 in ₹ crore. The funds will be used to upgrade roads, drains, drinking water facilities, sewerage systems, and street lighting, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana said at the 51st meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority. PTI

Number of people dead in Russian gunpowder plant blast

20 More than 100 people were wounded, the authorities said on Monday, as a probe began into possible industrial safety violations. The authorities did not officially name the plant, despite announcing Monday as a day of mourning in the region. PTI

Land alloted in tribal-majority district to cement factory

991 in acres. The Gauhati High Court has slammed the Assam government for allotting 3,000 bighas (991 acres) of land to a private cement factory in the State's tribal-majority Dima Hasao district, and observed whether this is a "joke". PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Who decides nominations to UT Assemblies?

How should members be recommended to the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly? What does the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 state with respect to nominations to the Puducherry Assembly? What was the 'triple chain of command' opined by the Supreme Court in 2023?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:
The Union Home Ministry, in its affidavit before the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, has submitted that the power of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly of J&K can be exercised by him without the aid and advice of its Council of Ministers.

What does the Constitution state?
The Indian Constitution provides for nominated members in the houses of Parliament and State legislature. The provision for nominating two Anglo-Indian members to the Lok Sabha and one Anglo-Indian member to State Legislative Assemblies was discontinued in 2020. The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members. These members are nominated by the President on the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers. In the six States with Legislative Councils, nearly one-sixth of the members are nominated. These members are nominated by the Governors on the advice of the States' Council of Ministers.

What about Union Territories?
The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of three Union Territories (UT) are governed by acts of Parliament. Section 3 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 provides for 70 elected members in the Delhi Assembly. There are no nominated MLAs in the Delhi Assembly. Section 3 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for 30 elected members in the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry. It also provides that the Union government may nominate up to three members to the Puducherry Assembly.

Section 14 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (as amended in 2023) provides for a total of 90 elected seats in the Legislative Assembly of J&K.

Different metrics: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during the Budget session of the J&K Assembly, in Jammu on March 7. ANI

In addition, Sections 15, 15A and 15B provide that the LG may nominate a total of up to five members – two women, two Kashmiri migrants and one displaced person from Pakistan occupied Kashmir – to the J&K Assembly.

What have courts ruled?
The procedure for nomination of members to the Puducherry Assembly came up before the Madras High Court in the *K. Lakshminarayanan versus Union of India* (2018) case. The court upheld the power of the Union government to nominate three members to the Assembly and that it need not be based on the advice of the UT's Council of Ministers.

Nevertheless, considering the importance of the matter as well as larger principles involved, the court provided certain recommendations for consideration of Parliament. It suggested statutory amendments to lay down a clear and unambiguous procedure for nomination of MLAs. It should provide clarity about where such nomination should emanate from and who/which office will exercise the powers of nomination. However, the Supreme Court on appeal had set aside the recommendations in this judgment of the Madras High Court.

In the *Government of NCT of Delhi versus Union of India* (2023) case, the Supreme Court had delved into the concept of 'triple chain of command' that ensures democratic accountability. In this 'triple chain of command' opined by the court, civil servants are accountable to ministers; ministers are accountable to the legislature; and the legislature is accountable to the electorate. It therefore held that the LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in all matters except where the Delhi Assembly does not have legislative powers. While this case was related to the appointment of officers to services in the Delhi government, the rationale in this judgment may hold good for nomination of members to the Assembly as well.

What should be done?
A UT does not enjoy the same status of a full-fledged State in our federal set up. However, UTs with Assemblies have their own elected governments that is accountable to its population. The nomination of MLAs does not create any issue when the same party is in power at the Centre and the Union Territory. However, political differences between the Union government and a UT government should not derail the democratic process in the UTs. In smaller assemblies like that of J&K and Puducherry, these nominated MLAs can have the potential of converting a majority government into a minority one and vice versa, thereby rupturing popular mandates.

J&K is a case *sui generis* for it was a State till 2019 with even more autonomy than other States. While the conversion of J&K into a UT has been upheld by the Supreme Court, the Union government has informed the court that it would restore statehood to J&K at the earliest. Considering these factors, it is appropriate that the nomination of five members to the J&K Assembly is made by the LG based on the advice of its Council of Ministers. This would uphold the democratic principle.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views are personal.

THE GIST

- The Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members. These members are nominated by the President on the aid and advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
- The composition of the Legislative Assemblies of three Union Territories (UT) are governed by acts of Parliament.
- In the *Government of NCT of Delhi versus Union of India* (2023) case, the Supreme Court had delved into the concept of 'triple chain of command' that ensures democratic accountability.

How should toll collection practices be reformed?

What has the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament recommended? What was said about FASTags?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:
The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has recommended significant reforms to toll collection practices on national highways, such as calling for an end to the perpetual tolling system. The report was submitted before Parliament on August 12.

What are the key recommendations?
The PAC headed by Congress MP K.C.Venugopal has advocated for discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered. The Committee expressed concern that current toll practices allow for indefinite collection regardless of road quality, traffic volume, or user affordability, creating what it termed a "regime of perpetual tolling". The panel emphasised that any continuation of toll collection beyond cost recovery should only be permitted with clear justification and approval from a proposed independent oversight authority. It proposed establishing a specialised regulatory authority to ensure transparency and fairness in toll determination, collection, and regulation. The PAC noted that while toll rates currently increase annually by a fixed 3% increment plus partial indexation to the Wholesale Price Index, there exists no institutional mechanism to independently evaluate whether these charges are justified relative to actual operational and maintenance costs or future service requirements. The panel has also insisted that highway users should receive toll reimbursements when construction is in progress and commuters cannot properly utilise the roadways. Regarding FASTags, the panel observed that despite their extensive implementation, traffic bottlenecks persist on NHs due to malfunctioning scanner readings at collection points, and suggested establishing on-location services for motorists to top up, buy, or exchange FASTags.

How is toll determined?
Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 empowers the Government to levy fees for services or benefits rendered on national highways while Section 9 empowers the Union government to make rules in this regard. Accordingly, the policy for the collection of user fee is formulated and governed by the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. The levy of user fee is based on the base rates fixed under the NH Fee Rules across the country and is not related to the cost of construction or its recovery.

The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008. In order to cover the impact of variable cost of operation and maintenance, 40% of annual increase of WPI is provided. The fee is to be collected by the Union government if a highway is publicly funded or by the concessionaire if it follows any of these models – Build Operate Transfer (BoT), Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) or developed under Infrastructure Investment Trust.

An amendment in 2008 allowed user fees to be collected in perpetuity. So, if the concession period is over, the highway is handed over to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the toll collected will go directly to the Consolidated Fund of India. The toll collection has gone up from ₹1,046 crore in 2005-06 to ₹55,000 crore in the financial year 2023-24. Of this ₹25,000 crore will go to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the remaining to the concessionaire toll plaza.

How has the Ministry responded?
The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework. Ministry representatives indicated that the study's scope has been finalised and will cover parameters such as vehicle operating cost, damage to the highway due to vehicle use as well as user's willingness to pay.

THE GIST

- The PAC headed by Congress MP K. C. Venugopal has advocated for discontinuing or significantly reducing toll charges on national highways once the capital expenditure and maintenance expenses have been fully recovered.
- The rates of fees have been increasing by 3% each year from April 1, 2008.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways acknowledged the Committee's concerns and informed the PAC that it has initiated a comprehensive study with NITI Aayog to revise the user fee determination framework.

Golf Course in Bangarpet has encroached 40% of govt. land: Minister

As per law, the Revenue Department has powers to allot land to the golf course if it is within the city limits or near the city. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Confident Golf Play near Bangarpet in Kolar district has encroached 40% of the government land for developing the golf course and the Law Department has recommended to the Revenue Department to act against officials who have failed to protect the land, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

In reply to a question of Narayan Swamy K.M. (Congress), Mr. Gowda said Confident Golf Play had also destroyed a water body and his department would not be in a position to grant the land to the golf course.

Mr. Narayan Swamy claimed that the golf course had not acquired the government land and he had documents to prove his claim. However, he sought the Revenue Department's intervention to register the land in the name of golf developers.

Mr. Gowda said the matter has been referred to the Cabinet, and the Chief Secretary referred it to the Law Department. Based on the land survey records, the Law Department said that the golf course illegally grabbed 40% of the revenue land. It ruled out allotment of the land to the private party.

As per law, the Revenue Department has powers to allot land to the golf course if it is within the city limits or near the city. But the golf course is located 5 km from the Bangarpet town, Mr. Gowda said.

Shortage of land

Replying to questions raised by Krishnappa M.T., JD(S), Anil Chikmadu (Congress) Sharada Poorya Naik, JD(S), Nanje Gowda (Congress), Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda said there was shortage in the availability of government lands for construction of anganwadi centres, taluk offices, playgrounds, cemetery and other buildings. More than 13 lakh applications have been pending in the department seeking allotment of lands or regularisation of ownership of lands by farmers.

However, the department has found that many individuals claimed regularisation of lands which they were not cultivating, land falling in the category of lakes/tanks, forest lands, and not being cultivated at all. In three different verdicts, the Supreme Court ruled against giving public lands/gomala to private purposes, the Minister said.

Former U.P. MLA booked for sexual assault

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport police on Sunday registered a case of sexual intercourse obtained through deceitful means against former Uttar Pradesh Shiv Sena MLA Bhagwan Sharma, following a complaint filed by a 40-year-old woman who has alleged rape. The victim had allegedly been in a live-in relationship with Sharma since 2017, and the couple has a seven-year-old son. The victim in her complaint alleged that Sharma had promised a court marriage and brought her to Bengaluru.

According to the police, 51-year-old Sharma, a former MLA from the Debai Assembly constituency in Bulandshahr district, had visited Bengaluru on August 14 for business purposes along with the victim and their minor son. The family travelled to multiple places during the trip.

On August 16, while returning from Chitradurga, they checked into a five-star hotel near Kempegowda International Airport, where Sharma allegedly forced his partner into sexual relations against her will and threatened to kill her when she resisted and left the hotel. Based on her complaint, a case has been registered under Section 69 (sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means) and other Section of the BNS, the police said.

Preliminary probe revealed the couple had earlier approached a police station in Uttar Pradesh over a domestic dispute. During questioning, the victim alleged that the MLA had promised to marry her but sexually assaulted her.

Malavika Hegde becomes chairperson of Coffee Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Coffee Day Enterprises, promoted by entrepreneur the late V.G. Siddartha, has elevated Malavika Hegde, its CEO as chairperson of the company with immediate effect, said the company in a regulatory filing. Ms. Hegde, wife of Siddartha, has been serving as the CEO of the company since 2019.

Also, she has been reappointed as a whole-time director of the company for another five years.

"Based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board considered and unanimously approved the re-appointment of Mrs. Malavika Hegde as a Whole-time Director (WTD) for a further period of five years effective December 31, 2025, till December 30, 2030," as per the BSE filing.

The board has also appointed Ms. Hegde as chairperson of Coffee Day Global Limited, a subsidiary of Coffee Day Enterprises, effective immediately. She is already a Whole Time Director of the company.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF FLY ASH AT SGWF

Name of Work	Auction
Description of Auction Sate	Auction of approximately 64 Tons Flyash at Satellite Goods Terminal Whitefield Goods shed.

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 12.30 hrs on 05.09.2025**

For details log on : **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/386/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Notification no MYS/COMML/08/2025 Dated : 14.08.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites application for engagement of ATVM (Automatic Ticket Vending Machine) facilitators on Commission basis for Arsikere, Kadur, Davangere, Hassan, Harihar, Haveri, Mysore, Shivamogga Town, Birur, Ranibennur and Bhadravathi Railway stations over Mysore Division.

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 03.09.2025**

For details log on : **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru

PUB/392/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 18/2025 Dt. 12.08.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Quantity	Tender Due on
1	45251274B	4.5 KW Under slung Constant Voltage Regulated cum emergency Battery Charger	503 Nos..	04.09.2025
2	43251030	Voltage phase control (MMR-Measuring and Monitoring Relay)	1539 Nos.	08.09.2025
3	30251115	Silent Block for anchor link to RDSO Drg. No. SK-94101	14247 Nos	08.09.2025
4.	30251800	Bogie frame arrangement (for 13T Rolled Section Bogie BMBC	81 Nos.	15.09.2025
5.	38251356	High capacity Draft Gear Arrangement.	283 Nos.	15.09.2025
6	12255001	Armature Assembly for Traction Motor type TM4303BY	7 Nos.	29.09.2025
7	11251096	High capacity side buffer assembly	140 Nos.	30.09.2025
8	19251031	Set of 10 fasteners items	23 Nos.	03.10.2025
9	16251104	Element fuel Filter Spin	1766 Nos	03.09.2025

For Tender No. 45255009 of Notice No.16/2025, the Due Date for opening of tender changed from 14.08.2025 to 01.09.2025.

All Tender Closing Time : **Upto 10.30 hrs**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi

PUB/387/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government Of India Undertaking)

Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 8660593395 Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : Magadi

Name And Address Of The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : Borrower Cum Mortgator : Sri. Rangaswamaiah S/o Channaiah @ Kariyappa, Resident Of Belagavadi Village, Madabal Hobli, Kalludevanahalli Post, Magadi Tq, Ramanagara, Karnataka – 562120

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 05-08-2025	Rate of Interest
125001756677	MSME OCC	12/07/2024	Rs. 15,00,000.00	Rs. 15,44,126.86	12.35%
180395291335	AGRI GOLD LOAN	12/03/2025	Rs. 4,30,000.00	Rs. 4,33,571.00	11.10%
		Total	Rs. 19,30,000.00	Rs. 19,77,697.86	

Total Liability Amount : **Rs.19,77,697.86 (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Seventy-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Seven and Eighty-Six Paisa Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 29-07-2025 **Demand Notice Dated : 05-08-2025**

Name of Title holder : SRI. RANGASWAMAIAH S/O CHANNAIAH @ KARIYAPPA

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Katha No. 217/237, Pid No: 152900302800420068, Situated At Belagavadi Village, Madbal Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District - 562120. **Measuring : East To West – 103.3272 Meter, North To South – 78.3336 Meter. Boundaries: East –** Road, **West –** Land Of Dasappa And Remaining Land In Sy. No: 152, **North –** Land Of Hucchaiah And Kempamma, **South –** Land Of D. Channappa.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 19-08-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mandya **Canara Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Syndicate (A Government of India Undertaking) Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 09.09.2025

Last date of EMD : 08.09.2025

ARM – 2 Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310181. E-Mail – cb6298@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-2,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **09.09.2025 at 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **08.09.2025 .**

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Total Dues Possession Type
1.	**1. M/s Lakshmi Biotech,** D-9/139 SFS 407, 4th Phase, New Town, Yelahanka,Bangalore-560064. **Also At : M/s Lakshmi Biotech,** 175/5, 10th cross, Thyagarajanagar, Basavanagudi,Bangalore-560004 **2.Mr. Girish Rameswarappa S/o Rameswarappa. G** No 4, 2nd Floor, 9th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Further extension, Bengaluru – 560086. **3. Mrs. Sunitha lakhsmi W/o T Kullayi Reddy,** D 10,SCC Sapphire apartment, Ananthapura Gate, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru 560064. **Also At : Mrs. Sunitha Lakshmi W/o T Kullayi Reddy,** Flat no.415&416, S –LIG,First floor,35th block, 5th floor, Housing board, Yelahanka New town, Bengaluru 560064.	**Rs. 9,45,67,404.46** as on **13.08.2025** plus further interest and cost thereon **Incremental Bid : Rs. 25,000/-**

Full description of the immovable property, Reserve Price, EMD, known Encumbrance(s), Outstanding Dues if any are as under:-
Details and full description of the property:
9 No.s of residential Shirke LIG Flats (2 flats owned by T Sunitha Lakshmi & 7 flats owned by T K reddy) at 5th phase, Karnataka Housing Board, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064 measuring 1213.64 sqft.
Details of flat wise is given below :

BLOCK NO	FLAT NO	FLOOR	SBA (Sq ft)	EXTENT	RESERVE PRICE	EMD PRICE
38	447	GROUND	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
38	448	GROUND	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
20	236	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
35	415	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
35	416	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
38	452	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
39	463	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
39	464	1st	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
22	262	2nd	269.1	Land measuring East to West 10.25 mts and North to South 11.00 mts Total 112.75 sq mts	Rs.5,20,000/-	Rs.52,000/-
				Total	**Rs. 46,80,000/-**	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For further details contact Authorised Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2- (9113092975, 8921102717, 9993777728, 9483544116, 8709675503 and 080-25310181) e-mail id – cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) - e- mail: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer,**
Date : 18.08.2025 **Canara Bank**

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank
ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ A Government of India Undertaking

Canara Bank ARM - II Branch,
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Telephone numbers 080-25310099, 080-25310181,
E-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice Issued Under Section 13(2) Of The Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002

To,

Borrower : (1) M/s Balaji Fashions A partnership Firm Rep By: (I) Ajay Agarwal, (ii) Neha Agarwal, Registered Office at: # 202, New BEL Road, Opp: HP Petrol Bunk, Bangalore 560094.

(2) Mr Ajay Agarwal (Partner) S/o. OM Prakash Agarwal, Resd at # C-401, Brindavan Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560069.

(3) Mrs Neha Agarwal (Partner & Mortgagor) W/o.Ajay Agarwal, Resd at : # C-401, Brindavan Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560069.

(4) Mr Ajay Agarwal S/o. OM Prakash Agarwal **(Guarantor),** Resd at # C-401, Brindavan Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560069.

(2) Mrs.Neha Agarwal W/o.Ajay Agarwal **(Guarantor),** Resd at # C-401, Brindavan Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560069.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank ARM II branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s.BALAJI FASHIONS** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.

That **Mr.Ajay Agarwal S/o Om Prakash Agarwal and Mrs.Neha Agarwal W/o.Ajay Agarwal** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantors"), has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities (Fund based / Non-Fund Based) up to the limit of **Rs. 1,25,00,000.00/- (Rupees One Crores Twenty-Five Lakhs Only)** with interest thereon.

You **Mrs.Neha Agarwal** have entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **17.01.2018** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on 13.08.2025 amounts to **Rs. 3,96,21,916.24/-(Three Crores Ninety Six Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen Rupees and Twenty Four Paise Only)** plus further Interest and charges thereon, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on **17.04.2018** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of mentioned in schedule C together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum **Rs. 3,96,21,916.24/-(Three Crores Ninety Six Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen Rupees and Twenty Four Paise Only) as on 13.08.2025** together with further interest (as stated in schedule C) and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset.

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt.

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of Section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE - A

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

SL. NO.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Sanctioned Amount (Rs.)	Disbursed Amount (Rs.)
1	0887256010372	OCC	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Running Limit
2	0887768000015	Term Loan	Rs. 25,00,000/-	25.00,000/-

SCHEDULE –B

[Details of security assets]

Details of Immovable Assets

SL. NO.	Nature	Name of the title holder
1	**Flat** **Details Of Mortgage Property: Schedule: I-schedule A Property :** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.E -10 and E -13 having a super built up area of 465.48 square feet and 478.12 square feet respectively with an un-divided share of 143.947 sq ft and 147.812 Sft respectively constructed on residentially converted land in Sy No 47/1 and Sy No 48 totally measuring 15790Sft(11+3.08 guntas) situated at Doddathoguru Village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk and entire land bounded on the: East by: Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, West by: Remaining portion of Land in Sy. No47/1 and Sy No.48, North by:Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & South by:Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others. **II-Schedule B Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No E -14 and E- 15 having a super built up area of 465.48 square feet each with an un-divided share of 143.947 sq ft each constructed on residentially converted land in Sy no 47/1 and Sy no 48 total measuring 15790 sft(11+3.08 guntas)situated at Doddathoguru village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore south taluk and Entire land bounded on the: East by: Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, West by: Remaining portion of Land in Sy. No47/1 and Sy No.48, North by:Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & South by: Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others. **III-schedule C Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Three Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.C-01,C-02,and D-13 having a super built up area of 478.12,square feet ,465.48 square feet and 478.12 square feet respectively with an un-divided share of 147.812 sq ft,143.947 sq ft and 147.812 sq ft respectively constructed on residentially converted land in Sy no 47/1 and Sy No 48 totally measuring 15790Sft(11+3.08 guntas) situated at Doddathoguru Village ,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South taluk and Entire land bounded on the: East by: Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, West by: Remaining portion of Land in Sy. No47/1 and Sy No.48, North by: Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & South by:Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others.	**Mr. Neha Agarwal**

SCHEDULE – C

[Details of liability as on date 13.08.2025]

SL. NO.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Principal as on date 13.08.2025	Interest and other charges as on date 13.08.2025	Total Liability as on date 13.08.2025	Rate of Interest
1	0887256 010372	OCC	Rs. 98,82,279.93	Rs. 2,62,42,374.79	Rs. 3,61,24,654.72	11.35%
2	0887768 000015	Term Loan	Rs. 14,58,842.49	Rs. 20,38,419.03	Rs. 34.97,261.52	11.35%

Date : 14.08.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

Note: *Our Earlier Demand Notice Dt:19/07/2018 Stands Cancelled

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Dr.Ayesha Begum, has entered into an agreement of sale to purchase Schedule Property from its present owner's Mr.Shaik Vali and others who represents that they have jointly acquired the Schedule Property through a registered Sale Deed 27/03/2007, Vide document No. 06074/2006-07, registered in office of sub registrar Jayanagar Bangalore executed by Mr.Noor Khan and others Rep by their GPA Holder Shaik Teepu, in favour Mr.Shaik Vali, Late Shaik Babu and Shaik Mastan and due to the death of Late Saik Babu and Shaik Mastan their family members succeeded as their legal heirs.

Further Mr.Shaik Vali represents that he has lost the original sale deed 27/03/2007, and E-complaint for lost serial No. 1757306/2025 has been lodged on 18-08-2025. If any persons having possession of the said documents or having manner of claims right, title, interest or objections to the sale the same shall be communicated to the undersigned within 7 days from today failing which my client shall get the sale deeds registered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Northern Portion of Residential Building constructed on property bearing No.23/3, BBMP Property No. 73/3/23/3 Comprised in Sy.No.73/3, Previously known and Situated at Thavarekere, Presently known and situated at 6th Cross, BISMILLAH NAGAR, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.171, E Aasthi PID No. 2662509487, Along with the existing building MEASURING East to West 40 feet., North to South 20 feet., Total Measurement 800 Sq. feet bounded : East by : Property No.161, West by : Road, North by : Property No.22, South by : Remaining portion of same property.

ASCENT LEGAL INC.,
AKHIL AHMED .P, Advocate
No.3, 1st Floor, 100 Ft. Ring Road,
Near Water Tank, BTM 1st Stage,
Bangalore-560 029. M - 9880354972

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, my client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property mentioned hereunder from its present owner **Smt.Chandrani Majumder** W/o. Late. Ramanuja permanently Residing at No.132, Prayag Apartment, Vasundra Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110096 **(AADHAAR No. 5911 5185 0418)** Person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned counsel along with supporting documentary evidence within **14 days** from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :-

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site / House List No.51, Katha No.196/156, (This property has been converted for non-agricultural residential purposes, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)292/1991-92, dated 25th July 1992, duly signed and issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore) situated at THURAHALLII VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now this property comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Corporation Ward No.184, EPID No.7444852123, Property No.182/156/51, Site No.51, Thurahalli, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 40-0 feet, North to South : 30-0 feet, in all measuring 1200 Square feet, with the boundaries :-

East By : Site No.44, West By : Road, North By : Site No.50, South By : Site No.52.

M. KIRAN KUMAR, Advocate
MKS LAW ASSOCIATES
No.72, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Kaveri River Road, Brundhavan Nagar, Bangalore-560019.
Mob: 8050019912

BUILDING BLOCKS

Artisan soap bars. GETTY IMAGES

On soaps and detergents: how they are made and manufactured

During World War I, there was a shortage of natural oils and fats to make soaps, which spurred some industrialists to look for alternatives that could be synthesised chemically. Thus, the first commercial soap-like detergents emerged in the mid-1930s

R. Vasudevan

There is nothing like a refreshing bath after a sweaty workout or a hard day outside. The feeling of freshness and the pleasant odour after the bath is the contribution of the ubiquitous soap. In ancient India, soap nuts were crushed and used to clean, as were the bark of certain trees and specific flowers and leaves. The first use of soap has been traced back to 2800 BC in Mesopotamia. From there this little item later spread into Europe. During the Industrial Revolution, soaps started to be mass-produced. But even until the 19th century, soaps were treated as luxury items and taxed heavily in Europe.

What is soap?

Soap is essentially a sodium (Na) or potassium (K) salt of a fatty acid based on vegetable oil or animal fat. In chemistry parlance, soap is represented by the formula RCOONa or RCOOK, where R is an organic fatty acid chain and C and O are carbon and oxygen atoms, respectively.

For example, a fatty acid based on coconut oil contains lauric acid, which has the formula $C_{12}H_{24}O_2$. Similarly, a palm-based fatty acid will have palmitic acid, which is represented as $C_{16}H_{32}O_2$. The corresponding formula of soap with a lauric acid base will be $C_{11}H_{22}COONa$.

Solid soaps are generally sodium salts while liquid soaps are generally potassium salts, both of fatty acid chains.

How is soap made?

Traditionally, coconut or olive oil has been reacted with caustic soda (NaOH) to produce a crude form of soap. This process of soap-making was quite slow and producing it in large quantities was laborious.

The contemporary process to produce soap en masse is much faster. The process begins by converting the triglycerides in the vegetable oil base to a fatty acid. This process allows the manufacturer the flexibility to use different types of vegetable oils like soya, sunflower or palm, aside from the more conventional coconut or olive oil, to make soap. The fatty acid forms when the vegetable oil is treated with hot water at a very high temperature and pressure:

Triglyceride (vegetable oil) + water = fatty acid + glycerin

The glycerin is refined to remove moisture and other impurities and converted to industrial grade or pharmaceutical grade glycerin, according to demand. The fatty acid is then used to make soap by reacting it with caustic soda (NaOH) in a large vessel:

RCOOH (fatty acid) + NaOH = RCOONa (soap) + H_2O

The soap thus produced is extracted from the mix and dried to remove excess moisture using vacuum drying. The resulting mass is then extruded through a die to produce soap "noodles". These strings are much thicker than the noodles we eat but are much shorter in length.

At this juncture, a critical element of soap is the total fatty matter (TFM): it is the percentage of natural oils and fat in the mass. The higher the TFM, the better the soap is in terms of its cleaning performance. At this stage, the moisture content in the noodles are controlled depending on the end use. Soap noodles destined for bathing should have less moisture content than those destined for laundering soaps.

The manufacturer moves the soap noodles into a blender, where they are mixed with additional ingredients to achieve the final product. To the fatty matter and moisture already present in the noodles, the manufacturer adds perfume, colour, filler material, and performance enhancers.

Some popular perfumes in India are sandal-wood oil, which is natural, or synthetic alternatives. Similarly, colours can be plant pigments or synthetic options like oxides. Soap fillers are generally talc (that is, magnesium silicate), sodium silicate or certain sulphates.

Surfactants also known as surface active agents, are added to reduce the surface tension of water and allow the soap to spread more easily when bathing. A common surfactant is sodium lauryl sulphate. Depending on the brand, some manufacturers also add antifungal, antibacterial (e.g. triclosan), and other medicinal additives (e.g. tea-tree oil or neem oil) to the soap.

Once the soap formulation is complete, the manufacturer extrudes the blended mixture to produce long soap bars, which are then stamped in a die into the desired shape, size, and weight as individual soap cakes. Finally, they are wrapped in a specifically designed wrapper and packed in cartons for shipment.

The technologies and automation in soap-making have advanced significantly over the years such that automatic production lines can deliver 600-700 soaps per minute (100 gm each) today.

Why do soaps clean?

A soap molecule has two ends: one end attracts water (that is, it's hydrophilic) and the other end repels water (hydrophobic). Thanks to the presence of surfactants, soap also tends to reduce the surface tension of water, allowing it to spread more evenly.

During a cleaning activity, the hydrophobic end is attracted or embeds itself in grease or dirt while the hydrophilic end stays attached to water. The act of scrubbing and rinsing then dislodges the dirt, which flows out along with the water. The detergents used to wash clothes, utensils, various surfaces, etc. are also liquid soaps in a way – but their formulation consists of a large amount of surfactants along with additives like bleach, fragrances, and dyes.

During World War I, there was a shortage of natural oils and fats to make soaps, which spurred some industrialists to look for alternatives that could be synthesised chemically. Thus, the first commercial soap-like detergents emerged in the mid-1930s.

Depending on the formulation, detergents have the ability to soften hard water making the cleaning action more effective. However, their surfactants are known to be environmentally unfriendly. The use of phosphates has spurred concerns about nutrient pollution in the soil and some sulphonates have been known to linger in the environment for many years. In light of these concerns, chemical engineers are currently developing more biodegradable surfactants and enzymes that can replace phosphates.

Both soaps and detergents are a part of our everyday lives today, so any effort that makes them more ecofriendly should be welcome.

R. Vasudevan has a decade's experience in the manufacture of soaps and fatty acids.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

August 19 is celebrated as World Photography Day. A quiz on the same

Prathmesh Kher

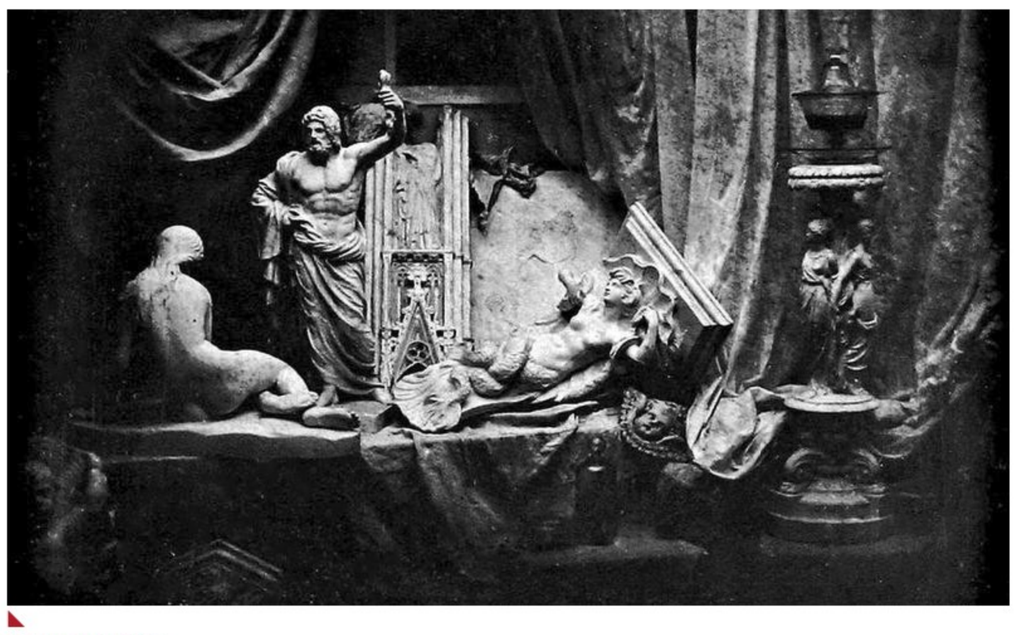
QUESTION 1
What historical breakthrough does World Photography Day pay tribute to?

QUESTION 2
Who first suggested that a dedicated day should be set aside for photography, and when did the idea take shape?

QUESTION 3
Who introduced the word 'photography', and what meaning does it carry?

QUESTION 4
What steps were involved in producing a daguerreotype image in the 19th century?

QUESTION 5
Before Daguerre's invention, what process did Joseph Nicéphore Niépce devise, and what landmark image did it yield?



Visual question:
Identify the image and explain its significance.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. He is known as the son of the god Apollo, and the staff he held in his hand, is still relevant today in medicine. **Ans: Ascelpius, after whom the rod with the snake twirled on is named**
2. This goddess in south Indian folklore is believed to have protected children from the pox. **Ans: Mariamma**
3. In Japanese myth, Sukunabikona is credited with inventing this drink. **Ans: Sake**
4. Roman myth boasts of this goddess who could protect people from fever and malaria. **Ans: Febris**
5. In Egyptian mythology, this goddess could unleash her messengers to cause plagues upon populations. **Ans: Sekhmet**
Visual: The twins mentioned in the Rig Veda. **Ans: Ashvini Kumaras**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Arun Kumar Singh| Sudhir Thapa| Piyali Tuli| Arjun Debnath

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Hello there! And how are you this morning?"

"What's wrong with you? You seem to be in a cheerful mood this morning!"

"I've got a good reason to be in a cheerful mood. I got a letter from my cousin Ravi yesterday. He's coming here next week."

"That's nice. I haven't seen Ravi since he was knee-high to a grasshopper."

"Since he was what?"

"Knee-high to a grasshopper. It means short and small as a child."

"I see. When I was knee-high to a grasshopper, I was very cute. Can I say that?"

"No!"

"Why not?"

"Because you could never have been cute! Your mother told me the other day she had nightmares looking at you."

"Ha! Ha! Very funny. Here's another example. I have two nieces, both knee-high to a grasshopper. My next door neighbour has... oooh, that hurts."

"What's the matter?"

"It's my stomach. It really hurts."

"It must be all that rabbit food that you ate last night. It probably..."

"...rabbit food! I didn't eat any rabbit food."

"Of course, you did. You ate a lot of salad, didn't you?"

"You mean salad is sometimes referred to as rabbit food?"

"That's right. Salad and green vegetables are sometimes jokingly referred to as rabbit food. For example, I hate rabbit food. Give me a fried puri any day."

"My father thinks that we need to have a little more rabbit food in our diet."

"Rabbit food tends to be full of vitamin C. It's good for you."

"Then, why don't you eat it?"

"Because it disagrees with me."

"Disagrees with you! Ha! Ha! That's a good one. How can green vegetables disagree with you? Can the vegetables talk to you?"

"No!"

"Then what are you talking about?"

"When you say something disagrees with you, it means eating it upsets your stomach or makes you feel unwell. For example, pumpkins always disagree with me."

"I see. Can I say garlic disagrees with me?"

"You certainly can. Here's another example. Milk disagrees with a lot of people."

"You mean they cannot even eat ice cream?"

"That's right. They cannot even eat ice cream."

"That's terrible. Instead of saying, milk disagrees with me, can I say, milk doesn't agree with me?"

"You certainly can."

"Well, in that case, you are wrong to say that rabbit food doesn't agree with me. It certainly does agree with me."

"Whatever you say Bugs Bunny!"

Published in The Hindu on September 9, 1997.

Word of the day

Meander:
a bend or curve, as in a stream or river; an aimless amble on a winding course; to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course

Synonyms: ramble, thread, wander, weave, wind

Usage: *This path meanders through the vineyards.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/meanderpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /miˈæn.də(ɹ)/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Most parts of State receive heavy rains

IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rain in parts of Karnataka today; reservoir levels have consistently been going up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several parts of the south interior, north interior, and coastal Karnataka received heavy rains on Monday, and many districts had declared a holiday to schools. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rain at a few places, such as Udupi and Uttara Kannada, Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, and Gadag, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru districts on Tuesday too.

The IMD has sounded red alert for the coastal taluks of Uttara Kannada district till 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

It further added that there would be light to moderate rain with sustained wind, and it is likely to occur at most places over Ballari, Bengaluru (Rural), Bengaluru (Urban), Chamarajanagar, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Kodagu, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, and Vijayanagara districts.

People press ahead amid heavy rain at Thyagarajanagar in Bengaluru on Sunday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

The reservoir levels across the State have consistently been going up. The discharge from Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) near Mysuru has been stepped up in view of the heavy rains in its catchment areas in Kodagu district.

The outflow from the reservoir was in the range of 80,000 cusecs to 1,20,000 cusecs on Monday at noon. Authorities have advised people living in low-lying areas to shift to safer places, along with their cattle.

Red alert has been issued for the coastal areas of Uttara Kannada district till 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday

In northern districts, authorities have issued a warning to farmers and fishermen in villages on the banks of river Krishna and its tributaries, following increase in water levels due to heavy rain in parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

"Considering heavy rainfall in upper catchment area and discharges from Krishna (Kallol Barrage) and Ghataprabha (Lolasur Bridge), inflow to Almatti Dam is likely to increase. Hence, outflow to river would be gradually increased from present 1,00,000 cusecs to 1,25,000 cusecs by Monday afternoon," said a release.

Following continued incessant rain, the district administrations of Uttara Kannada and Dhawad districts have declared a holiday for anganwadis, primary and high schools, and pre-university colleges on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, as the inflow to Linganamakki dam, constructed across Sharavati, has increased, the authorities have decided to release water from the reservoir on Tuesday at 10 a.m. and sounded alert for the villages downstream.

Shakti enters book of records

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Shakti scheme, Karnataka's free bus travel initiative for women in State-run non-premium buses, has entered the Golden Book of World Records for ferrying the highest number of women passengers under the scheme.

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy on Monday said that under the scheme, 500 crore women passengers travelled in non-premium government buses operated by the four State-run transport corporations-KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC between June 11, 2023 and July 25, 2025.

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Create awareness among students about committee: FRC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Fee Regulatory Committee (FRC) has written a letter to the Secretaries of the Departments of Higher Education, Medical Education, and Health and Family Welfare to create awareness about the FRC if there are complaints regarding colleges seeking excess fee.

The FRC's direction came following complaints by medical and engineering students regarding demand for excess fee and advance fee payment for entire courses. Justice B. Sreenivase Gowda, Chairman of FRC, has said that the departments should issue necessary directions to the Executive Director of Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to include the clause: "students aggrieved by demands for excess fees and/or demands for payment of the entire course fee in advance by private professional colleges at the time of admission shall be at liberty to approach the Fee Regulatory Committee (FRC), located in the KEA building, for redressal of their grievances," in the allotment letter/admission order.

The direction comes following complaints by medical and engineering students regarding demand for excess fee

Mentioning that complaints have been received about the demand for additional fees by the principal of a college in Mangaluru, he said that the committee finds that the complaints do not contain material particulars such as names, contact numbers, and email IDs. "In the absence of the above particulars, the FRC cannot inquire into the complaints and provide appropriate relief," he stated.

Suggestion

He suggested to insert above the clause in the Consensual Agreement (CA) entered by the State government with Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association and Karnataka Religious and Linguistic Minority Professional Colleges Association and other associations. "It would be more effective and fruitful if such Consensual Agreement is web-hosted in the website of the colleges and department," he stated.

Justice Gowda also also suggested to issue notifications in minimum two Kannada and English daily newspapers widely circulated across the State and the Centre at the time of commencement of every academic year.

New findings may have therapeutic implications in treating diabetes: IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

New findings from a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) claims to have important therapeutic implications in the treatment of diabetes.

An IISc release said just as smart traffic management ensures smooth vehicular movement during peak hours, our body relies on a molecular traffic system to manage the surge in glucose levels after a meal. Pancreatic beta cells play a major role in this system by taking up glucose from the blood and triggering insulin release into the bloodstream.

"Inside these cells, glucose uptake is managed by glucose transporters (GLUTs) - proteins that move to the beta cell surface when blood glucose levels rise and facilitate the entry of glucose into the cell to kickstart insulin release," IISc said.

In Type-2 cases

This new study shows how this process falters in Type-2 diabetes and how restoring it could open new therapeutic avenues. In humans, GLUT1 is the main glucose "gateway" in beta cells, while in mice, GLUT2 plays that role.

The team, led by Nikhil Gandasi, Assistant Professor in Department of Developmental Biology and Genetics (DBG), studied both to understand the process of glucose uptake across systems. Using advanced live-cell imaging, the team tracked GLUT1 and GLUT2 transporters as they were recruited to the beta cell membrane under different blood glucose levels.

How cells behave

In healthy cells, rising glucose levels prompt a rapid deployment of GLUTs to the membrane. These transporters are then cycled in and out through clathrin-mediated endocytosis - a process in which cells internalise extracellular material by forming pockets made of the protein clathrin.

A step before that

"Most studies have looked at what happens after glucose enters the beta cell. We focused on the step before that, the actual entry of glucose, and how this is disrupted in diabetes," said Anuma Pallavi, PhD student in DBG and first author of the study.

Cyber frauds cheat 32-year-old woman looking for marriage and a job

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Promising a job and a life partner, cyber frauds cheated a 32-year-old unemployed commerce graduate and made away with ₹34 lakh in a span of one year.

The victim sourced the money from her mother's account without the latter's consent, took gold loans and personal loans, and sold Euros which she had saved, to fund the money demanded by the accused as security deposit to issue the letter of appointment.

Based on her complaint, the East Division Cyber Crime Police on Thursday registered an FIR against unknown people charging them under various sections of IT act and also under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), invoking provisions such as cheating by deception and dishonest inducement.

The victim was asked to make multiple payments under the pretext of completing the formalities for employment

According to the complaint, the victim had registered on a matrimonial website for an alliance and was also looking for a job in July last year.

The victim got a call from a person who identified himself as Dashmeet Singh Bindra, residing in New Delhi and offered to help with employment.

Claiming to have contacts with a reputed company's HR, he later connected the victim with one Rahul Khanna, who he introduced as an HR head, who claimed there was a vacancy in a company, and initiated further communication regarding a job opportunity as Ground Wing Manager at the Delhi airport.

The victim was asked to make multiple payments under the pretext of completing necessary formalities for employment, including security allowance, accommodation charges, and joining processing fee. Based on their assurances, she made payments in small transactions from July 2024 to January 2025, totalling ₹34 lakhs.

Later, in October 2024, she received a joining letter, along with a cheque as an advance for accommodation and job-related allowances. However, shortly after, she discovered that the cheque was invalid and got bounced, she questioned the HR, who claimed that the cheque had bounced due to a signature mismatch.

The contact number of the HR became unreachable from March, 2025, but the HR contacted her recently claiming that her earlier payments could be refunded after the payment of an additional "tax amount", she alleged.

The cheating came to light when the victim in March 2025 contacted her brother and shared the offer letter and other related documents, who confirmed all these letters were fake and suggested lodging an official complaint. The police have launched a probe to locate the accused based on their contact details .

Action to be taken against those posting provocative content

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of the alleged provocative and defamatory posts on social media on the ongoing investigation in Dharmasthala, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday warned of stringent action if the trend continues.

Minister's warning

"If you do not regulate yourself, the government will have to regulate you," the Home Minister warned those using social media to post their views on the Dharmasthala row.

Replying to a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the "alleged efforts to defame the Dharmasthala pilgrimage centre by an anonymous person on the charges of mass burials", the Home Minister told social media users: "Please stop it. If you continue, the State government will have to take action against you."

Opposition demand

His warning came in response to a demand by the Opposition to act against those posting content on social media, particularly those putting out "objectionable" content on YouTube.

He noted that already the government had decided to bring in a legislation to act against those spreading fake news.

"Our intention was to bring it in the ongoing legislature session. But now we may bring it in the next session," he said.

'Objectionable content'

Earlier, the Opposition members, including Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, expressed concern over "objectionable" content on social media at a time when the Special Investigation Team was probing the allegations.

BJP member S. Suresh Kumar called it a "social media trial."

Another BJP member V. Sunil Kumar accused social media users of being "part of the conspiracy" to mislead the probe and defame the pilgrimage centre.

Dharmasthala: Assembly plunges into pandemonium

Ruling Congress and Opposition members indulge in heated exchanges on the issue, forcing Speaker U.T. Khader to adjourn the House twice to let tempers cool

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar watch as Home Minister G. Parameshwara speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Legislative Assembly plunged into pandemonium on Monday over the case of alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala, with the ruling and the Opposition members indulging in heated exchange of words.

Speaker U.T. Khader had to adjourn for 30 minutes to let tempers cool.

Trouble began during the reply of Home Minister G. Parameshwara on the Dharmasthala row, when BJP member V. Sunil Kumar accused the Congress government of supporting the efforts by some groups to tarnish the image of Dharmasthala and other centres of Hinduism.

Countering the Home Minister's claims that the intention of probing the alleged mass burials through a Special Investigation Team was to bring out the truth, Mr. Sunil Kumar alleged: "More than bringing out the truth, the government intends to tarnish Dharmasthala's image."

This triggered angry response from the ruling benches with several senior Ministers including M.B. Patil and Dinesh Gundu Rao taking exception.

Following this, the Speaker suggested to the BJP member to withdraw his remarks. Refusing to do so, Mr. Sunil Kumar upped the ante by alleging that the Congress government was supporting such efforts as per instructions of its high command.

"This is evident with the fact that the government is yet to file any case against YouTubers who have been carrying out such propaganda," he argued.

Referring to the complainant who has levelled allegations of mass burials in the pilgrimage centre, he alleged: "It is not just one masked man; there are multiple masked men operating from Delhi, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu."

This plunged the House into pandemonium as incensed ruling members began a counter-attack.

They accused the BJP of mixing politics with religion for selfish gains, while the BJP members too continued their attack.

As chaos gripped the House, the Speaker adjourned the House again for some time.

Police instructed to act against activist

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MANGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that he has instructed the police to take stern action against activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarodi who has alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had "murdered 24 people".

Without mentioning Mr. Thimarodi's name, Dr. Parameshwara said action would be taken against the person without any hesitation. "Do you think the government has become helpless?" the Home Minister asked the BJP, when the latter claimed that the government has gone "silent" on allegations made by Mr. Thimarodi.

Mr. Thimarodi and other activists have been campaigning under the banner of "Justice for Sowjanya" banner and released documents alleging irregularities in the disposal of unidentified bodies in Dharmasthala.

Reference to Poonja

Mr. Thimarody, it may be recalled, had made the statement about Mr. Siddaramaiah in a press conference during the Assembly election campaign in 2023. He had referred to an earlier statement made by MLA Harish Poonja that Mr. Siddaramaiah was accused of "murdering 24 Hindus." He had said then: "If this is true, Mr. Siddaramaiah should step down from the post. If this is false, then action should be taken against the MLA for this statement."

> Do you think the government has become helpless?
>
> **G. PARAMESHWARA,** Home Minister

The Belthangady police, on a complaint by Namitha K. Poojary, registered a case against Mr. Poonja for his alleged derogatory statement.

Investigation into the complaint against Mr. Poonja has been stayed by the High Court of Karnataka. The petition is coming up for hearing on August 20.

'Govt. finding it tough to fill V-C posts'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

State-run universities are finding it difficult to fill up the Vice-Chancellor's post owing to applications from ineligible persons, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said on Monday.

When BJP member H.S. Gopinath drew the attention of the Minister to the V-C post at Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University being vacant, the Minister said that though application has been invited, the post could not be filled owing to applicants being unable to meet the eligibility criteria.

When the member sought to know if Nagesh Bettakote, who is acting as in-charge Vice Chancellor after his tenure ended in January, 2025, could continue, the Minister said that such provision exists only in Visvesvaraya Technological University.

Meanwhile, data placed before the House showed that five more universities are running without a Vice-Chancellor. A search panel for the selection of new V-Cs has been set up for Gulbarga University, Bengaluru City University and Gangubai Hangal university. With respect to Maharani Cluster, Nrupatunga and Mandya Universities, the panel is yet to be formed.

Enrolment in govt. schools declined by 10.38% in three years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Enrolment to government primary schools and high schools across the State has shown a steady decline since the 2022-2023 academic year, according to data placed by the Department of School Education and Literacy before the Legislative Council on Monday. The enrolment has shown a decline by 10.38% in three years.

While 45.46 lakh students were enrolled during 2022-2023, the number dipped to 42.94 lakh by 2023- 2024, a decline by 2.52 lakh. The numbers have further fallen in 2024-2025 with an enrolment of 40.74 lakh, a further decline by 2.18 lakh.

Responding to a question from Congress member Anil Kumar, Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa told the House that several reasons could be attributed to the decline.

Reasons cited

"Lack of bilingual school, absence of pre-primary classes that could attract students, shortage of teachers and poor maintenance of toilets were among the reasons for the declining numbers," he said.

The department, he said, hopes to increase the enrolment with permission provided to 5,000 schools to start pre-primary classes, while teacher recruitment would be conducted. "Bilingual schools along with these measures would increase the enrolment," the Minister said.

On closure

While the Minister said that not one school had been closed owing ue to a lack of admission, the Hulikal Government High School in Tumakuru district had been closed owing to a shortage of students during the 2023-24 academic year, data showed.

State losing over ₹20,000 crore annually after migration to GST regime, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has been losing ₹20,000 crore to ₹25,000 crore annually owing to migration to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in 2017, while the State's contribution to the GST pool has been increasing, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has said.

"This has affected the State's finances. Economy is not weak but compared to the national collection, what we are getting is not enough," he told the Legislative Council on Monday.

Speaking during a discussion on Karnataka GST (Amendment) Bill 2025, which was passed by the House later, he said that Karnataka was contributing ₹8.2 per every ₹100 collected as GST in the country. "This contribution has now increased to ₹9.2. If we have to improve our GST collections, loopholes have to be plugged," he said.

Preventing misuse

The amendment that was passed not only seeks to prevent misuse of input tax credit but also exempts GST on goods moved from one SEZ to another.

Mr. Gowda said that the State has made a strong appeal before the 16th Finance Commission for increasing Karnataka's share. "We have asked the commission not to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Karnataka is the highest per capita taxpayer in the country."

Tax evasion

Acknowledging that there is a huge tax suppression and evasion in arecanut trading, pan masala, and gutka, along with tobacco and allied products, the Minister said that through the amendment Karnataka intends to bring in the track and trace method based on system intelligence to prevent input tax credit-related frauds.

"The highest tax evasion now is in pan masala and gutka with 60% to 70%, while it is about 30% to 40% in tobacco products."

The track and trace method is to map the entire value-added chain from raw materials to finished product involving both buyers and sellers.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaking in the Legislative Council on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

15 lakh families in State ineligible for BPL cards, says Muniyappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa said that the department would commence the exercise of weeding out ineligible families having Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards soon after the end of the Monsoon Session of the legislature.

Responding to a question from BJP member Prathap Simha Naik and Congress member Yathindra Siddaramaiah, the Minister told the Legislative Council that 15 lakh families had been identified to be ineligible to receive BPL cards in the past, and action would be initiated to delete these families from the BPL list.

He acknowledged that 3.22 lakh families have applied for BPL cards, but they are yet to get the cards.

He pointed out that the government has cleared 2.14 lakh applications out of about 2.95 lakh applications that were pending from the tenure of the previous government.

"Once we remove ineligible beneficiaries, we will be able to issue fresh cards. Karnataka already has the highest number of BPL families at 74% of the total families. This is the highest in south India. No other southern State has more than 50% BPL families in their population."

BJP members raise issue of TB dam gates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP members in the Legislative Council on Monday raised the issue of eight crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam not functioning, even as the State government said that it had informed the Tungabhadra Board and asked it to repair them.

BJP member Hemalatha Naik said that eight crest gates have jammed. Instead of 105 tmcft of storage, currently only 80 tmcft has been stored, she said, adding that gate no. 33 experienced problems last year.

₹48 crore allocated

Responding to this, House Leader N.S. Boseraju said that ₹48 crore has been allocated for repairs and a tender has been floated for the purpose.

Internal quota: Options being worked out to bring about a consensus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Monday evening saw hectic parleys among Ministers and officials belonging to Scheduled Castes to arrive at a consensus on the internal reservation on the eve of the special Cabinet meeting, even as the Dalit left (Madigas) and the Dalit right (Holeyas) continued to exert pressure on the government.

Dalit right groups staging a protest in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the Dalit left groups continued with their protest demanding the implementation of the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission report, the Dalit right groups converged in Bengaluru to bring pressure to either drop the recommendations or modify it. Both held protests at Freedom Park here on Monday.

Meanwhile, Ministers from the SC community met at the residence of Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday evening. The special Cabinet meeting scheduled for Saturday was postponed to Tuesday over a lack of consensus. The commission has recommended 1% to Category A for microscopic communities, 6% to Category B for Dalit left, 5% to Category C for Dalit right, 4% to Category D for touchable communities of Bhovis, Lambanis, Korchas, and Kormas and 1% to Category E comprising AD, AK, and AA. Multiple sources said that several retired officials from both Dalit left and right groups have been trying to bring about a formula acceptable to both groups.

Two options

While one formula is to drop 1% given to AD, AA, and AK in Category E and increase the percentage to Dalit right to 6%, and add the three communities to the Dalit right group or split them between the Dalit right and the Dalit left.

The other formula is to increase the reservation percentage of Dalit right to 7% and bring all Dalit right communities that are in Category A, B, and E together.

The Dalit right groups have been pointing at "scattering" of their allied castes in three categories, thus reducing their actual numbers and also reservation percentage.

Commission sources said that some vulnerable castes had been moved to Category 1 given their backwardness and inability to compete with Category C. The logic was that unequal castes cannot compete.

Sources in Dalit right groups (including Chalavadi Mahasabha) said they have told Ministers that the report can be accepted only with revision in categorisation and reservation matrix.

Sources in the Federation for Social Justice for Scheduled Castes, representing microscopic communities and the Dalit left, said that though Mr. Das's recommendations were scientific and backed by data, it was open for small revision.

Meanwhile, the representatives of Federation of Dalit Sangharsha Samitis, who met the Chief Minister on Monday, have also urged the State government to accept the report by revising certain aspects of the recommendations. In a memorandum, they said that efforts should be made to keep the unity among the 101 SCs and ensure fairness.

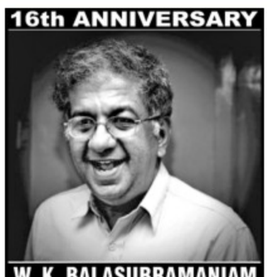
Ahimsa, a group representing minorities, backward classes and general category employees of the government, on Monday appealed to the government not to breach the 50% reservation mark as per the direction of the Supreme Court.

Incidentally, the reservation for SCs and STs was increased from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively, based on recommendations by Mr. Das, who headed another commission on increasing reservation. This took the total reservation matrix which was at 49% to 56%. Other Backward Classes have a reservation of 32%.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

16th ANNIVERSARY



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From Page One

Dharmasthala case: 'SIT waiting for tests to take probe forward'

G. Parameshwara, Home Minister, speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He appealed to both the ruling and the Opposition members to desist from issuing any statements on Dharamsthala till the ongoing probe by the SIT was completed.

"If you desist from issuing any statements in this regard, it will help the SIT to effectively bring out the truth," he said, and appealed to media also to not indulge in speculative reporting.

Responding strongly to the Opposition insisting that he should act with conscience, the Home Minister said: "I am discharging my duties with conscience and have constituted the SIT with conscience to bring out the truth."

Dissatisfied with the Home Minister's statement, the BJP and the JD(S) staged a walkout.

Five electrocuted during procession in Hyderabad

10-foot chariot being carried during the Krishna Janmashtami procession touches live wire in Ramanthapur, leading to the casualties; Minister announces ₹5 lakh ex gratia for victims' kin

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

A Krishna Janmashtami procession at Ramanthapur area in Hyderabad turned tragic late on Sunday when a 10-foot chariot being carried by devotees came into contact with a live overhead electric wire, leading to the death of five men and injuries to four others.

According to Uppal police Station House Office K. Bhaskar, the victims, along with others, were taking part in a Sri Krishna Shobha Yatra from their locality to a nearby temple when their four-wheeler broke down. "Choosing to carry the metal chariot manually, the group attempted to move it forward. About 200 metres from the temple, the chariot touched a live electric wire, electrocuting the men. The mishap occurred around midnight in RTC Colony," the officer said.

Frayed tempers: People protest before electricity department office in Hyderabad on Monday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

The injured were rushed nearby hospitals.

The SHO added that the bodies of the deceased were shifted to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway.

Ex gratia announced

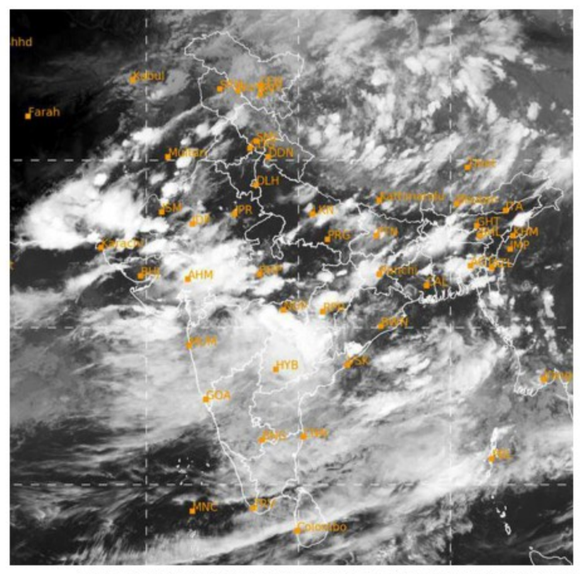
Minister for IT D. Sridhar Babu announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to the families of each of the victims. He said the government would bear the entire medical expenses of the injured.

"A detailed inquiry has been ordered under the District Collector's supervision, and strict action will follow against those responsible," said the Minister.

He added that a special review will be conducted in Greater Hyderabad to identify and address risks posed by hanging cable and electric wires.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	34.4	25.8	Kozhikode	36	28.0	23.0
Ahmedabad	0.1	34.0	26.4	Kurnool	38	27.3	22.8
Aizawl	—	33.5	22.2	Lucknow	—	34.5	28.5
Allahabad	—	34.4	27.0	Madurai	—	37.0	27.5
Bengaluru	5	24.4	19.4	Mangaluru	35.6	27.6	22.5
Bhopal	—	32.7	25.0	Mumbai	99	26.2	24.1
Bhubaneswar	0.5	32.0	25.5	Mysuru	4	25.0	20.0
Chandigarh	2.4	33.5	25.5	New Delhi	1	34.9	24.8
Chennai	6	33.5	24.6	Patna	0.2	34.8	27.4
Coimbatore	—	31.2	22.0	Port Blair	43	27.2	21.7
Dehradun	18	32.5	22.5	Puducherry	—	30.8	23.8
Gangtok	32	25.2	18.3	Pune	1	27.0	23.6
Goa	78	27.0	23.4	Raipur	6.6	—	25.5
Guwahati	0.2	35.9	27.5	Ranchi	9	28.6	22.5
Hubballi	—	23.0	22.0	Shillong	—	27.4	19.0
Hyderabad	29	25.8	21.0	Shimla	10	21.2	18.0
Imphal	19	30.1	24.5	Srinagar	0.6	23.2	18.7
Jaipur	—	35.4	27.8	Thiruvananthapuram	4	30.2	25.2
Kochi	8	29.8	23.4	Tiruchi	—	35.9	26.0
Kohima	—	28.0	19.4	Vijayawada	4	28.7	25.0
Kolkata	0.4	32.6	27.6	Visakhapatnam	108	27.0	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	..26	71	..... —	71	.....
Bengaluru	.14	.31	41	 37	44	.....
Chennai	.15	..—	46	 17	66	.....
Delhi	.41	..46	31	... 102	96	.....
Hyderabad	.18	..16	25	 78	86	.....
Kolkata	...3	117	15	 32	28	.....
Lucknow	...8	..40	35	 38	40	.....
Mumbai	.20	..28	22	 33	61	.....
Pune	..—	..26	65	 30	41	.....
Visakhapatnam	...7	..41	26	 30	46	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 170 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Milk unions fix prices for producers in districts'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Animal Husbandry Minister K. Ventakesh informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday that milk unions are autonomous and they have powers to fix different milk prices payable to producers in districts.

Highest in DK

In a reply to a question by Aravind Bellad (BJP), the Minister said that Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Union has been paying the highest price of ₹39.98 per litre to producers, while the lowest was in Belagavi at ₹33.

The demand and the profitability of the milk union were the major reasons for the highest price in DK district, he said.

The average price paid by milk unions in the State was ₹35.3 to producers, he said.

Karnataka's aluminium extrusion industry hit by global headwinds, Trump tariff: ALEMAI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The aluminium extrusion industry in Karnataka is concerned about global headwinds, including volatility in raw material prices, high energy costs, and the recently announced 50% tariff by the U.S administration, according to Jitendra Chopra, President, Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI).

Aluminium extrusion is a manufacturing process where melted aluminium alloy is forced through a die to make hard aluminium in various sizes, shapes and lengths for the consumption of diverse industries.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on August 18, Mr. Chopra said, "Karnataka, being a strategic location, has emerged as a key growth engine of India's aluminium extrusion industry with an individual production contribution of over 10%, thanks to its rapid industrial growth, strong export potential and a thriving manufacturing base. However global headwinds were impacting the prospects of the sector and industry players here are worried that these would impact the export competitiveness of the sector."

A worker at an aluminium factory. PTI

According to him, other than the tariff burden, what is hurting the industry is under-utilization of domestic manufacturing capacity due to cheap imports.

"The high tariffs by the U.S are a challenge, but a bigger challenge is the under-utilisation of domestic manufacturing capacity due to cheap imports. The total installed aluminium extrusion capacity in India is 3.5 million tonnes per annum, but the utilisation is only around 2 million tonnes, with the remaining 1.5 million tonnes imported," he said.

He also cited a need to put in place safeguards in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Far East countries and other nations to revive domestic units.

Mr. Chopra said aluminium extrusion is a fast-growing sector in Karnataka. While Bengaluru-based Jindal Aluminium Limited (JAL) remains India's largest aluminium extrusion company, Hindalco and Bhoruka Group also have manufacturing facilities in the City.. Moreover, there are hundreds of MSMEs and small-sized aluminium extrusion manufacturing facilities catering to construction, electric mobility, aerospace, renewable energy, and consumer durables.

The push from government-led initiatives, like the Smart Cities Mission, affordable housing schemes, and clean energy programmes, is fuelling sustained growth in aluminium extrusion output and consumption, he stated adding, "Karnataka is rapidly becoming a hub for aluminium extrusion with its unique advantages of manufacturing strength, technology, and export potential. The State plays a critical role in meeting India's domestic demand as well as exports, and holds immense strategic value for the industry."

India's aluminium extrusion market stood at $3.51 billion in 2024, and is projected to reach $4.61 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 4.5%. While north India remains the dominant market, growth in the southern region is led Karnataka, according to ALEMAI, that represents over 200 industry players.

Karnataka accounts for over 10% of India's total production of 1,079,875 metric tons. Jindal is a major contributor, producing approximately 12,000 tonnes per month.

The industry body in association with Hindalco, Vedanta, JNARDDC, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Mines, and the Ministry of MSMEs, is scheduled to hold a four-day aluminium extrusion exposition, ALUMEX India 2025, in New Delhi between September 10 and 13.

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027. Telephone No: 080-22537575
Website : **www.mybmtc.com** e-mail : **ctmc@mybmtc.com**
No. BMTC:CO:TR:COM:1890:2162:2025-26 Dated:16.08.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:21/2025-26
(e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites bids from the interested Persons/Agency/company on monthly license fee basis for **Commercial/Office Space, 2nd Floor & Terrace space at Kengeri TTMC Bus station** through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**20.08.2025 at 11:45 hrs**	**Place: Chief Traffic Manager (Com) chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Offices, BMTC, Shanthinagar.**
Last date & time for submission of bids		**01.09.2025 up to 17:00hrs**
Opening of Technical bids		**02.09.2025 at 17:05hrs.**

For further details on license fees, EMD, Area and other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 09240214000, 09240214001; 22371090; 22340060; 22340948 or 7760997519 & 7760991222 E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client intends to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its lawful owners **SMT. MEGHANA YALLAPPA GANGUNDI**, W/o Sri.Yallappa gangundi, Aged about 51 years, Residing at No.1012, 17th main, 1st Phase, 1st stage, BTM Layout, BENGALURU-560029, **Aadhar:6207 8309 4200 and SRI.SANTHOSH KUMAR XAVIER**, S/o.N.S.Xavier Aged about 47 Years, Residing at No.63, 2nd Cross Road, Venkateswara Layout S.G.Palya BENGALURU-560029 **Aadhar : 6909 2590 7641** and if any person(s) having any objections or claims, may send their objections with all supportive documents to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication failing which my clients would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there is no claim or objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential House property bearing Site **No.4, BBMP Municipal No.1/1, old Khatha PID No.66-158-1/1No.1**, BBMP e-asthi No.2027165020, formed in Sy.No.97, situated at Tavarekere village, Begur Hobali, Bengaluru South Taluk, Layout, presently known as 4th main road, Tavarekere Extention, within the administrative limits of BBMP Ward No.172, Madiwala, measuring East to West : 40 ft and North to South : 30 ft, totally **measuring 1200 sq ft**, along with RCC roofed granite flooring ground and upper four floor residential house each floor having built up area of 1000 sq.ft, and terrace floor having built up area of 500 sq,ft, and bounded as follows:-

East by :: Road ; West by :: Site No.7 ;
North by :: Site No. 3 ; South by :: Private Property.

N. ADINARAYANA REDDY, Advocate,
No. 403-10-2, 13th Main Road, 8th Cross, 1st stage
1st Phase, Gokula Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054. Tel : 9845706889
E-mail-anare.nadv@gmail.com
Bangalore, Date : 19/08/2025

DISTRICT HOSPITAL
Office of the District Surgeon,
Bengaluru South District, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Pho. : 080-2991 3667, E-mail : dsramanagaram@gmail.com

No. : D.H.R./Paper Notification/01/2025-26 Date : 14-08-2025

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

District Hospital Ramanagara is inviting E-Tender through **KTPP www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from qualified organizations for the Supply of Drug and Chemicals required for the year 2025-26. The details of tender process are given below and for further any details can be contact us during office hours. **(E-Tender No. : DHFWS/2025-26/IND1746)**

1) Downloading of Tender Documents from Online Date : 14-08-2025, 2) Pre Bid Meeting Date : 20-08-2025 at 4.00 p.m., 3) Last Date for Uploading / Applying Tender on Online Date : 28-08-2025 at 5.30 p.m., 4) Sample Submission Date : 29-08-2025 at 3.30 p.m., 5) Opening of Technical Bid Date : 30-08-2025 at 3.30 p.m., 6) Opening of Financial Bid Date : 02-09-2025 at 3.30 p.m. 7) Approximate Tender Value : 95 Lakh, 8) EMD 2% : Rs. 1,90,000=00.

Sd/- District Surgeon,
District Hospital, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/286/Manipal/2025-26

Bank of Maharashtra (A Government of India Enterprise)
BENGALURU ZONAL OFFICE
No. 465/A, First Floor, Opp to NMKRV College, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011.

PREMISES REQUIRED ON RENT

Bank of Maharashtra requires suitable premises preferably on Ground Floor with appropriate frontage and sufficient Parking Space on Lease Basis for Opening / Shifting of Branches. The premises requires as below.

Centre Name	Dist. Name	Approx Carpet Area Required
Bannergatta Road	Bengaluru Urban	1300 to 1700 Sq. Ft.
BM Road, Hassan	Hassan	900 to 1200 Sq. Ft.
Gubbi Gate, Tumkur	Tumkur	900 to 1200 Sq. Ft.
IG Road, Chikkamagaluru	Chikkamagaluru	900 to 1200 Sq. Ft.

The proposed premises should be in an approved building conforming to the conditions stipulated by the Govt. Authorities for commercial use. The owner will obtain NOC, if required from the concerned authority/ies for commercial use. Interested owners having clear title to the premises may submit their sealed offers in the prescribed format in two bids system i.e. 1) Technical Bid, 2) Commercial Bid in two separate sealed envelopes and the format of bid can be downloaded from our website **www.bankofmaharashtra.in** under Tender section or can be obtained in person from the above mentioned office address.
Interested owners having clear title over the property may submit their sealed offers in two - bid system by **01/09/2025 time 5:00 PM**. Offers with incomplete details / information and received after last date and time are liable for rejection.
Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons what so ever. Offers received from other than owners will not be considered. Offers from brokers will not be considered. For any further details contact us at **gad_ban@mahabank.co.in/staff_ban@mahabank.co.in, Ph. No: 9164111081 / 8838394957 Offers to be submitted to: The Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra**, Bengaluru Zonal Office, No.465/A, 1st Floor, Opp. to NMKRV College for Women, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar. Bengaluru-560011.

Date: 19/08/2025 **Sd/- Zonal Manager**
Place: Bengaluru **Bank of Maharashtra, Bengaluru Zone.**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM Limited invites Tenders vide Enquiry No: 1) BESCOM/2025-26/IND0158 (BESCOM/BCP-1612/2025-26 for the Supply of 11KV 5KN Polymeric Pin Insulators. Bid Documents available from: 20.08.2025. Last date for submission of Bids: 19.09.2025, 17:30 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 22.09.2025, 11:00 Hrs. and Enquiry No: 2) BESCOM/2025-26/IND0159 (BESCOM/BCP-1613/2025-26 for the Supply of 11KV 45KN Polymeric Disc Insulators. Bid Documents available from: 20.08.2025. Last date for submission of Bids: 04.09.2025, 17:30 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 06.09.2025, 11:00 Hrs and The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further bidders can take the assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or email at support@ eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1&2/AE-3&5/TND/2025-26/1698 Date:18.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works. (Rs. In Lakh)

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Amount Put to Tender	Earnest Money Deposit	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Upgradation of Existing CHC to 100 Bed General Hospital at Tagaduru Village, Nanjangudu Taluk, Mysuru District.	2700.00	27.00	15 Months
2	Construction of 50 Bedded Mother Child Hospital (MCH) at Hungund in Bagalkote District.	1414.23	15.00	15 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **24.09.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **25.09.2025 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

idco ODISHA Your power to grow NEW OPPORTUNITIES
ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

File No.HO/CIV/T&E/E-5183/04/24

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)-II, IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-11/2025-26
Notice No: 24379 Dt.14.08.2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP) UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work : " Engagement of Consultant for Preparation of Plan and DPR for Construction of Block Level Stadiums (components like Football / Cricket Field, Clay Athletic Track with throw and jump area, Volleyball / Kho Kho / Kabaddi Court, Indoor Hall (Badminton, Table Tennis etc.), Common facility Centre, Boundary wall, external development and inner periphery walking zone etc.) in different Districts of Odisha" – Package-I (Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Khordha, Puri).".

Availability of tender online for Bidding:
I. Start Date : 17:00 Hours of dt. 21.08.2025.
II. End date : 17:00 Hours of dt. 04.09.2025.
III. Opening date : 17.30 Hours of dt. 04.09.2025.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil)-II, IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-1497: OIPR-14003/11/0230/2526

DIRECTORATE OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND SCERT : ODISHA : BHUBANESWAR

TENDER CALL NOTICE OF NMMS EXAMINATION FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

No. 5079 **NOTICE** **DATE : 18.08.25**

Tenders are invited from reputed agencies for conduct of Offline OMR based NMMS Examination for the year, 2025-2026. The prospective bidders must meet the qualifying criteria mentioned in the technical qualification of the tender. They should have capacity to prepare question paper, conduct of examination, publication of result and other related works as prescribed in the tender document relating to NMMS Examination, 2025-2026 for the Directorate of TE and SCERT, Odisha.

1. **Date of release of Tender : 20.08.2025**
2. **Last date of Submission of Tender : 09.09.2025 (05.00 p.m.)**
3. **Pre-Bid Meeting : 30.08.2025**

After Pre-bid meeting, the corrected RFP shall be published in the SCERT website on **01.09.2025**. Objections, if any, may be sent to the Directorate through official e-mail.

Detailed terms, condition, schedules and Tender Documents can be seen/downloaded from the SCERT web--site i.e., **www.scertodisha.nic.in;** E-mail ID : **tescertodisha@gmail.com**.

Director,
TE and SCERT,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

n-125 OIPR-27006/11/0020/2526

Required reforms

Risking some revenue to boost consumption will help the economy

The central government's proposals to reform the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system are bold and timely. They stand to benefit the middle class and the business community, as the government claims. Shifting 99% of the items in the 12% slab to a 5% tax rate, and 90% of the items in the 28% slab to 18% will substantially reduce the tax burden on most consumers. Rationalising the number of slabs and shifting similar products to the same slab will also reduce ambiguity and litigation, which are the major issues businesses have with the current GST setup. Further, while most of the focus has been captured by the rate restructuring proposals, the procedural reforms regarding registration, return filing and refunds are equally important. Simplifying GST is not just about reducing the multiplicity of rates but also about making it easier and less time-consuming for tax-payers to navigate the system. Easing registration, simplifying returns and speeding up refunds, therefore, are welcome improvements the Centre is pursuing. Combined with the new Income Tax Bill and the rejig of income-tax slabs in this year's Budget, these GST reforms will highlight 2025 as a watershed year for tax reform – direct as well as indirect tax. While the government has not made an official estimate of what the revenue impact of these reductions will be, sources have said that it expects a hit. Two years ago, the Reserve Bank of India had estimated that the average GST rate was 11.6%, which is now expected to fall substantially. However, the government is confident that an increase in consumption and a widening of the tax base will offset most of the revenue loss. With a large number of items set to be taxed at just 5%, the incentives for input tax credit scams and tax evasion will also be substantially removed.

A willingness to risk some amount of revenue in order to boost domestic consumption bodes well for the economy, especially at a time when export demand is faltering due to tariff uncertainties. It remains to be seen how the State governments will react to this proposed revenue surrender. They have already been lobbying the Sixteenth Finance Commission to increase the share of States in central taxes. These tax cuts will also make it even more unlikely that petroleum products – a major source of States' revenues – will be included in the GST any time soon. Politically, it will be difficult for the States to directly oppose these rate reductions, but they might instead pressure the Centre for compensation once again. Crucially, the Centre will be reaching out to the States over the next few weeks to put forth its case. It is important that their concerns are taken on board as well.

Familiar impasse

Talks on limiting use of plastic must be built on mutual trust

Global resistance to a universal treaty on eliminating plastic pollution remains stubborn and huge. Last week, the sixth attempt since 2022 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to get member-nations to agree upon a treaty to address plastic pollution ran into the familiar vortex of opposition. There was disagreement among the major blocs of countries on whether comprehensively addressing plastic pollution requires eliminating plastic production itself. All countries agree that the ubiquitous polythene bag, despite its immense practicability and affordability as a container, has ballooned into a civic crisis. India generates around 3.4 million tonnes (MT) of plastic waste but recycles only about 30%. Its plastic consumption rose at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.7% from 14 MT in 2016-17 to over 20 MT in 2019-20. India has a production ban on about 20 single-use plastic items – cups, straws, spoons. While this has, to some extent, induced a degree of behavioural change – in greater reliance of paper and cloth bags – it has had little impact on waste management and recycling. This is also reflective of the global picture. According to the UNEP, the world produces more than 430 MT of plastic annually, two-thirds of which are short-lived products that soon become waste. Overall, 46% of plastic waste is landfilled, while 22% is mismanaged and becomes litter. In 2019, plastic, which is a derivate of fossilised crude, generated 1.8 billion metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions or about 3.4% of the global total.

Plastic, therefore, can be seen as a waste management problem that can be solved by improving incentives for the market to do a better job of collecting waste and recycling. However, there are countries that point to the decades of attempts made on these lines, with limited gains. To add to that, more evidence has piled up that plastic, non-biodegradable as it is, is making its way into human, animal and marine food systems. Island-nations and territories are swamped by plastic waste washing up on their shores. Then there are granular forms of plastic – or microplastics – with potential for harm. Thus, the only real solution is to reduce at source. However, nations are not all agreed upon this aspect of toxicity. Therefore, in treaty-linked talks, they view calls to cut production as tactics to impose trade barriers and add to the general climate of tariff uncertainty. Unless countries can build greater trust before such talks and hear each other out with an open mind, having more meetings will only be futile. The halcyon days, when some countries could steer resolutions on the environment assuming that the 'common good' was incontrovertible, are long past.

Alaskan winds, India and the Trump-Putin summit

Suhasini Haidar

The "Alaska Moment" between United States President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 15, 2025 will translate to other objectives for Ukraine as Mr. Trump engages with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders, leading up to a possible trilateral summit in a quest for the end of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. For New Delhi, however, the Alaska Summit did not yield the clear-cut outcomes many had hoped for before the meeting between the leaders of two of India's closest friends. Nor did it help the peculiar sense of vulnerability that Indian diplomacy faced, of having so much at stake in a meeting while having so little agency in its results.

Broadly, the Narendra Modi government had hoped that a U.S.-Russia rapprochement would take off some of the pressure from the U.S. India has felt over its ties with Russia. However, while there was a visible warmth in the Trump-Putin exchanges, this did not result in a less chilling tone that Mr. Trump has had towards India. He has been taking India to task on a number of issues.

More specifically, hopes rose that the Alaska meeting would result in a rollback of the U.S.'s planned 25% secondary sanctions on India for buying Russian oil; the resumption of India-U.S. trade talks that Mr. Trump has held up over the Russia oil issue; and a subsequent revision of the 25% reciprocal tariffs already in place. In a severely-worded piece in the *Financial Times* ("India's oil lobby is funding Putin's war machine – that has to stop"), Peter Navarro, who is Mr. Trump's Senior Counselor on Trade and Manufacturing, virtually dashed such hopes, making it clear that the double tariffs were a "two-pronged policy" by the U.S. to "hit India where it hurts", for both the Russian imports and for its curbs on market access.

No change in India policies

Nor was there any indicator that Mr. Trump would let up on the other pain point: his counter-narrative to the Modi government's account of Operation Sindoor (May 7-10) and how the ceasefire was achieved. Not only did Mr. Trump repeat that he has mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire, using trade as a leverage to corral both sides, but he now adds that a nuclear conflict would have followed as both sides were "shooting down airplanes", a version at considerable odds from that of the Modi government, which has thus far conceded that it had no losses in the conflict.

Thus, the first takeaway from the Summit must be this: while Mr. Trump's re-engagement and bonhomie with Mr. Putin may help Moscow, it does not mean a revision of his policies toward India. In any case, the rationale behind the secondary sanctions on India is dubious, and more about power games than about punishing Russia. The U.S. has itself increased its trade with Russia since Mr. Trump came to power and China imports of Russian oil have been consistently larger than India's. Hitting India with sanctions while feting the Russian President and ignoring China's actions seems to indicate that the reasons for the U.S.'s actions lie elsewhere. Many have suggested that Mr. Trump has acted out of pique – upset that Mr. Modi ignored his claims to have mediated with the Pakistanis. Reports suggested that Mr. Modi also rebuffed U.S. moves for him to sit down with the Pakistani leadership in Riyadh or in Washington, and that the Modi-Trump call on June 17 was extremely acrimonious and awkward as a result. Mr. Trump's more obvious focus appears to be recognition for his peace-making efforts, and a possible Nobel Peace Prize, and the Modi government has already missed the bus to give him the credit for the Operation Sindoor ceasefire that Mr. Trump so clearly wants.

> The visible warmth in the Trump-Putin exchanges did not result in a less chilling American tone towards India; the lesson for New Delhi is that it would need to take a firmer stance if it wants to get back its agency

New Delhi must decide whether it wishes to jump through hoops for Washington, or whether it would be more sensible to step back and allow the Trump administration to do its worst before assessing a response and turn its energies to other parts of the world. There may be avenues to shore up India's options on trade relationships with Mr. Modi's upcoming visits to Japan and then to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meet, a possible visit to the U.S. for the United Nations General Assembly, and then South Africa for the G-20 summit. There is also Mr. Putin's visit to India soon. The bellwether event for India-U.S. ties will be the upcoming Quad Summit (India, U.S., Japan, Australia) that India is due to host later this year. It is still unclear whether Mr. Trump will visit India, especially if no India-U.S. trade deal is done by then, and whether the Indian government will be in any mood to roll out the red carpet.

Returning to substance

The second takeaway should be a lesson in not allowing "Summitry" to overtake India's broader interests. For more than a decade, the "Modi mantra" of foreign policy has been about personal magic and chemistry, of dealing one-to-one with leaders of other countries, as his imprimatur on bilateral ties. As a result, visits abroad have been judged by the number of joint public appearances, handshakes and embraces as well as special honours and awards that are given to the Prime Minister, rather than the actual agreements and concessions between them. With China, however, the 18 one-on-one meetings between Mr. Modi and China's President Xi Jinping between 2014-19 did not generate the requisite understanding to foresee Chinese People's Liberation Army's transgressions along the Line of Actual Control and the Galwan clashes.

With the U.S., too, Mr. Modi's close engagements during the Trump 1.0 tenure (the 'Howdy Modi' rally in Texas in 2019 and the 'Namaste Trump' rally in Gujarat in 2020), as well as his early visit to Washington under the Trump 2.0 administration in February 2025 should have given the two leaders enough of an understanding of the other. Given the shocks that have followed, it may be time to turn back the focus to substance over style. But that substance becomes more difficult to seek in Trumpian times, given that most foreign policy decisions are being taken by Mr. Trump himself and a small ring around him in the White House, with few appointments being made on the desks that deal with India in the National Security Council or the State Department. In the 'good times' Delhi and Washington have worked well, even without a U.S. Ambassador in place in India. But at present, it is clear that a senior envoy with a keen knowledge of India as well as the U.S. President's ear are necessary to navigate the turbulence in ties.

Maintain a political balance

The third lesson of the past few months is that India must reclaim bipartisanship in diplomatic relations, and build and maintain ties on both sides of the political spectrum, regardless of which party is in power. In the U.S., the Democratic party establishment was unhappy about the Trump-Modi rallies because they were held just months before the U.S. presidential election in 2020, and India had to spend some time, subsequently, repairing ties with the Joe Biden administration. Four years later, this annoyed Mr. Trump, the Republican contender, especially as he felt the contrast between the close personal bonhomie while he was in power and the fact that the Mr. Modi and his envoys did not spend time with him when he was out of power, including during the three times Mr. Modi travelled to the U.S., in 2021, 2023 and 2024, to hold talks with Mr. Biden. Closer home, this bipartisanship has been proven to trip up India's ties in the neighbouring countries as well – Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives.

Fourth, Mr. Trump's penalties on India's import of oil, after the U.S. allowed, even actively encouraged the purchases before, show how fickle the global power can be and how futile it is for India to forego its principles in order to please a particular regime. India's time-honoured principle of only acceding to UN-mandated sanctions was broken in 2018 when the government bowed to Mr. Trump's threats of sanctions against Iranian oil, and then Venezuelan oil, possibly emboldening him to demand the same against the use of Russian oil this time. By accepting such unreasonable orders, India does not just risk economic losses in foregoing cheaper oil. It also becomes complicit in the U.S.'s foreign policy objectives that do not necessarily align with India's national interests. Conversely, when India resists such moves, it wins the support of others in the Global South. And while they object, western powers grudgingly accept India's strategic autonomy in these matters.

Finally, New Delhi must consider measures and countermeasures to deal with U.S. actions that hurt India's interests acutely – like the reciprocal and penalty tariffs that will make Indian goods far less competitive than those of its exporting rivals, curbs on U.S. manufacturing in India, or the remittance taxes on Indians working in the U.S. Getting back India's agency will require a firmer stance – one that is not buffeted by the winds in Alaska, at a summit meeting thousands of kilometres away from India.

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The path to ending global hunger runs through India

Maximo Torero Cullen

is Chief Economist, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

With global chronic undernourishment now on a downward trend, the world is beginning to turn a corner in its fight against hunger. The United Nations' newly released The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025 reports that 673 million people (8.2% of the world's population) were undernourished in 2024. This is down from 688 million in 2023. Although we have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels (7.3% in 2018), this reversal marks a welcome shift from the sharp rise experienced during COVID-19.

India has played a decisive role in this global progress. The gains are the result of policy investments in food security and nutrition, increasingly driven by digital technology, smarter governance, and improved service delivery.

Revised estimates using the latest National Sample Survey data on household consumption show that the prevalence of undernourishment in India declined from 14.3% in 2020-22 to 12% in 2022-24. In absolute terms, this means 30 million fewer people living with hunger – an impressive achievement considering the scale of the population and the depth of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The transformation of the PDS

At the centre of this progress is India's Public Distribution System, which has undergone a profound transformation. The system has been revitalised through digitalisation, Aadhaar-enabled targeting, real-time inventory tracking, and biometric authentication. The rollout of electronic point-of-sale systems and the One Nation One Ration Card platform have made entitlements portable across the country, which is particularly crucial for internal migrants and vulnerable households.

> India's decisive role in the the world's fight against hunger is a result of its policy investments in food security and nutrition

These innovations allowed India to rapidly scale up food support during the pandemic and to continue to ensure access to subsidised staples for more than 800 million people.

Now, progress on calories must give way to progress on nutrition. The cost of a healthy diet in India remains unaffordable for over 60% of the population, driven by high prices of nutrient-dense foods, inadequate cold chains, and inefficient market linkages. That said, India has begun investing in improving the quality of calories. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) school-feeding scheme, launched in 2021, and the Integrated Child Development Services are now focusing on dietary diversity and nutrition sensitivity, laying the foundation for long-term improvements in child development and public health.

New data in the UN report also shows progress the country has made in making healthy diets more affordable despite food inflation.

What is happening underscores a larger structural challenge: even as hunger falls, malnutrition, obesity, and micronutrient deficiencies are rising. This is especially so among poor urban and rural populations.

The agrifood system needs transformation

India can meet this challenge by transforming its agrifood system. This means boosting the production and the affordability of nutrient-rich foods such as pulses, fruits, vegetables, and animal-source products, which are often out of reach for low-income families. It also means investing in post-harvest infrastructure such as cold storage and digital logistics systems, to reduce the estimated 13% of food lost between farm and market. These losses directly affect food availability and affordability.

In addition, India should further strengthen support for women-led food enterprises and local cooperatives, including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), especially those cultivating climate-resilient crops, as these can enhance both nutrition and livelihoods.

India must continue to invest in its digital advantage to drive the transformation of its agrifood systems. Platforms such as AgriStack, e-NAM, and geospatial data tools can strengthen market access, improve agricultural planning, and enhance the delivery of nutrition-sensitive interventions.

A symbol of hope

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) notes that the progress of India in agrifood system transformation is not just national imperatives; they are global contributions. As a leader among developing countries, India is well-positioned to share its innovations in digital governance, social protection, and data-driven agriculture with others across the Global South. India's experience shows that reducing hunger is not only possible but that it can be scaled when backed by political will, smart investment, and inclusion.

With just five years left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) on ending hunger, India's recent performance gives this writer hope. But sustaining this momentum will require a shift from delivering sustenance to delivering nutrition, resilience, and opportunity.

The hunger clock is ticking. India is no longer just feeding itself. The path to ending global hunger runs through India, and its continued leadership is essential to getting us there.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The ECI's response

The defence provided by the Election Commission of India (ECI) regarding its refusal to publish readable voters' rolls for recognised political parties and to upload the voters' list on its website is, quite frankly, terrible. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has highlighted what can be called the incompetence of the ECI. The responses given by the ECI during the recent press conference to valid questions about the lack of transparency regarding the uploading of voters' rolls and other pertinent issues were absurd.

C. Raghavan,
Chennai

As the guardian of elections in India, the ECI must take the moral high ground, ensuring that all allegations and doubts are clarified and checked thoroughly. This is essential to maintain public trust in our elections and in democracy itself.

N.S. Girinaath Paranjothi,
Erode, Tamil Nadu

The tone and the tenor adopted by the ECI convey arrogance and an adversarial attitude. The Congress's case is that the data relied upon by its leader are from the ECI's own database. The ECI was evasive on several key questions from the media. There was no explanation for conducting such a massive exercise in the midst of the monsoon. The ECI has failed to live up to its constitutional mandate to be a neutral umpire. This is worrisome.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

What true empowerment of women entails

Apsara Reddy
AIADMK
Spokesperson

The trial of former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, tainted by every trick in the book that power can muster, from legal intimidation to procedural delays, could have been yet another grim entry in India's long and exhausting history of justice denied. However, this case was different because a 47-year-old domestic help, with no wealth, no political connections, and no media machinery at her disposal, refused to be worn down. She braved high-profile legal muscle, relentless attempts at discrediting her, and the quiet but crushing social pressures that compel victims to disappear into silence. She didn't disappear; instead, she stood her ground.

The language of empowerment

India loves the language of empowerment. We put women entrepreneurs on magazine covers, we host conferences celebrating women CEOs, and we create awards to honour women leaders in politics, business, and culture. Yet, when a woman without privilege takes on the powerful in a court of law, we often treat her as a passing headline; not as a hero whose actions have fortified the very concept of justice. Our narrative of empowerment too often belongs to those who have the resources to recover from failure, the networks to cushion backlash, and the privilege to choose their battles. We rarely extend the same recognition and support to women whose fight is not for market share or boardroom representation, but for their very survival. Women like this domestic help are not just defending their rights; they are performing a form of public service. Their win strengthens the jurisprudence for every woman who will walk into a police station trembling, unsure if she will be heard.

And yet, the moment the verdict is read, the applause dies down and the state, which was happy to bask in the optics of justice served, does little to ensure that these women can rebuild their lives. The women return to the same environment where abuse took place, facing retaliatory stigma, finding themselves jobless because it is "too much trouble" to employ someone who has been in court, or sinking under the weight of legal debts incurred during the fight. If governments, corporates, and civil society are serious about "women empowerment", they must provide these women structural support – legal, economic, and psychosocial – to ensure that victory in court does not translate into defeat in life.

The way forward

We need state-funded survivor compensation schemes. Frameworks exist to provide financial compensation to families of crime victims in categories such as terrorism or industrial accidents, so why should a woman who has stood up against entrenched power, faced character assassination, and endured court battles not receive similar recognition and financial security? The compensation should be calculated not only to cover legal expenses but to secure a minimum period of stability.

We need dedicated legal aid cells with special funding. Most women in such cases are bankrupted by the legal process. While legal aid exists in theory, it is woefully under-resourced and often inaccessible. States must create specialised survivor litigation cells with professional advocates, forensic experts, and victim support officers, funded on par with public prosecutors in high-profile cases.

We need guaranteed employment pathways. Governments, public sector undertakings, and corporates should create direct employment quotas for survivors of legal battles against abuse and harassment.

We need psychological support and trauma recovery. Survivors require structured access to long-term counselling, peer support networks, and therapy sessions, funded by the state and supplemented by CSR initiatives. Trauma recovery must be treated as a right, not as a luxury.

Most importantly, we must institutionalise survivor expertise. Women who have navigated intimidation, isolation, and legal complexity should be trained and appointed as counsellors for victims in police stations to guide them through the first and often most critical reporting stage; as mentors in community legal education programmes to demystify the justice process for other women; and as members of Internal Complaints Committees under POSH laws, where their lived experience can lend authenticity and empathy to workplace grievance redressal. This will not only provide survivors with income, but ensure that their courage is institutionalised, not forgotten.

One might ask, why we should single out women like this? Why not simply improve the justice system for all? The answer is simple: they are fighting battles that, in the absence of systemic reform, remain exceptions. Supporting them visibly and meaningfully sends a signal to both potential victims and potential abusers that the state does not abandon those who resist, and that the cost of silencing them will only rise. Moreover, recognising these women's courage in concrete, life-changing ways reshapes our national idea of empowerment.

Applause is easy; it costs nothing. But when a woman risks everything to hold a powerful man accountable, society owes her more than praise; it owes her a future. That future must be secured through a combination of immediate economic support, long-term professional integration, and the legitimisation of survivor voices in policymaking and institutional culture. Only then can we say that empowerment has been delivered, not just declared.

Women who fight for justice deserve more than applause; they deserve a future

Eyeing the Bodoland pie

The BJP is carrying on a divisive campaign and who it will ally with is unclear

STATE OF PLAY

Rahul Karmakar
rahul.karmakar@thehindu.co.in

Peace sells in a region scarred by decades of extremism. In 2003, the Government of India, the Government of Assam, and the Bodo Liberation Tigers signed a peace accord, which led to the creation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), an autonomous body to to govern the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The BTC was established as a political alternative to the demand for a separate Bodoland state.

The Bodoland People's Front (BPF), a political party formed largely by members of the disbanded Bodo Liberation Tigers, ruled the BTR until December 2020. The end of its 17-year rule was partly because of another peace accord in January 2020 and partly because of the BPF's divorce from its "big brother", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The 2020 peace pact, catalysed by the influential All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), was between the government and all the factions of another set of extremists – the National Democratic Front of Boroland. Pramod Boro, then the ABSU president and one of the key architects of the peace process, became the president of the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), the BPF's long-term rival across the BTR.

The BJP, claiming to have brought peace to the north-east and paved the way for development, found in Mr. Boro's image as a peace broker an opportunity to penetrate the areas under the tribal council where mainstream parties had little or no traction after 2003.

The BPF, dumped by the BJP, became the single-largest party by winning 17 of the 40 seats in the 2020 BTC polls. The UPPL, which won 12 seats, and the BJP, with nine, formed the government in the BTC along with a regional party that won one seat.

The Congress managed to win one seat and became the BPF's short-term ally in February 2021. Over the next few years, defections from the BPF and Congress saw the UPPL and BJP's tally increase to 15 and 14 seats, respectively.

The UPPL-led government in the BTC, allegedly rendered bankrupt by the BPF, exuded inclusivity in the rebuilding process across the BTR, which had a history of conflicts between the dominant Bodos, the largest plains tribe in the north-east, and a majority of the 19 non-Bodo communities, including the Assamese and the Bengali-speaking Muslims. Mr. Boro's outreach was underlined by the Bhutan-inspired Bodoland Happiness Mission launched in 2024 and a community-based road map for development of the smallest of communities. According to him, the post-2020 BTR was vastly different from the pre-2020 BTR, ruled by instability and division along community lines. The UPPL has been banking on the "unprecedented" peace and associated development across the five-district BTR for a second term, either on its own or in an alliance.

There is apparently no strain in the ties between the UPPL and the BJP, but the latter has often indicated it could befriend the BPF again. The BJP, reportedly miffed by a less pliant leadership in the BTC unlike its counterparts in the two other tribal councils - Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council - under the Sixth Schedule in Assam, has decided to go it alone in the BTC polls, likely to be held by September-end. If that is not enough, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma began campaigning in the BTR extensively, claiming that the region was reaping the benefits of peace because of the BJP. He also said that the non-tribal communities would have nothing to fear in Bodoland till he was alive. "Remember that you are safe and have equal rights because the BJP is here, and there will be no second-class citizens," he said.

Bodo organisations did not react to the Chief Minister's alleged bid to polarise the BTR electorate on ethnic lines. However, the All-Assam Tribal Sangha condemned State BJP president Dilip Saikia's assurance to non-Bodos that the laws specific to the autonomous councils would be amended for them to purchase land in the tribal blocks and belts. The BJP's approach to the BTC polls indicates a design to weaken the hold of its smaller allies in specific areas. This is evident from its oblique advice to another regional ally, the Asom Gana Parishad, to stay away from the BTC polls.

The Congress and other non-National Democratic Alliance parties have slammed the BJP's "divisive" campaign as a show of desperation to win the BTC polls.

China's Ejiao boom kills six million donkeys a year

With its own donkey population depleting, China turns to Africa for hides, hitting vulnerable communities there

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

According to a report published in June by a U.K.-based charity, nearly 6 million donkeys are killed every year globally to produce a traditional Chinese medicine called Ejiao. This problem of animal cruelty, according to data and reports, is fuelled by a gap between demand and supply in China. It has also led to many other issues spanning multiple countries across continents.

The demand for Ejiao in China, a medicine derived from the gelatin in donkey hides, has surged in recent decades. It is believed to have many health benefits, such as improving the immune system and curing anaemia though these benefits are not scientifically proven.

In 2013, about 3,200 tonnes of Ejiao were produced, which required more than 1 million donkey hides. The amount of Ejiao produced increased by 390% to 15,700 tonnes in 2021, which required close to 6 million donkey hides. The Donkey Sanctuary, a U.K.-based NGO, estimates in a report, 'Stolen Donkeys, Stolen Future', that this will increase to 18,000 tonnes by 2027. In other words, China will require 6.8 million donkey hides then **(Chart 1)**.

Data shows that meeting this surging demand for Ejiao, a booming industry in China, has come at an unsustainable cost. The donkey population in China has declined considerably in recent decades, as rising demand for donkey hides has outstripped domestic supply. The donkey population plummeted from 11 million in 1990 to just 1.5 million in 2023 – that is, by 87% over in over three decades **(Chart 2)**.

As a result of this supply gap, China has had to import donkey hides from countries in South America, such as Colombia and Brazil; and in Africa, such as Ethiopia, and Kenya. Data shows that African countries accounted for 51% of all equine hides imported by China in the last decade (2015-2025), followed by South America and Asia **(Chart 3)**.

Foals, adults, pregnant, or even injured donkeys are transported in poor conditions and ultimately pushed into slaughterhouses to fuel this international trade. This poses the risk of not only zoonotic diseases, but also the exploitation of already vulnerable donkey populations worldwide.

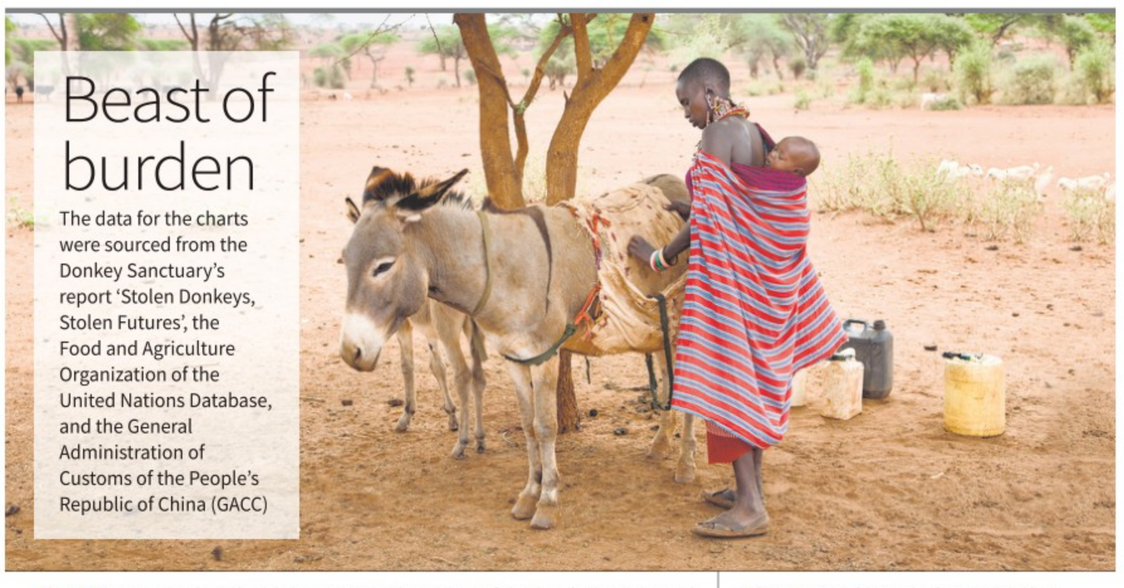
This has been evident in some African and South American countries, which have recorded steep declines in their donkey populations as a consequence of their trade with China **(Chart 4)**. In Egypt, for instance, the population of donkeys decreased from 3.1 million in the 1990s to 1 million in 2020s (68%). Steep declines were also recorded in South Africa, Brazil, and South Africa.

The trade has also come with a cost for communities that rely heavily on donkeys. For vulnerable groups in some of these countries, donkeys play a vital role in transporting goods and meeting domestic needs, supporting the livelihoods of many poor families.

The Donkey Sanctuary points out that when donkeys are stolen, it is often women who are forced to take on the work that the animals once did. In Ghana, girls are even pulled out of school early to shoulder these burdens.

The report also shows that the trade has led to a surge in donkey prices. For instance, the cost of a donkey in Kenya increased from £78 in 2016 to £156 in 2019. News reports show that the price of a donkey in Pakistan, China's latest market, had surged to ₹2 lakh in June this year.

Although the African Union imposed a continent-wide ban on donkey exports in 2024, there continues to be a surge in illegal trade in donkey hides in many countries, with families frequently reporting that their animals are being stolen.



Beast of burden

The data for the charts were sourced from the Donkey Sanctuary's report 'Stolen Donkeys, Stolen Futures', the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Database, and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC)

Chart 1: Ejiao produced and the estimated number of donkey hides required

Year	Ejiao produced (tonnes)	Minimum hides required
2013	3,200	1.2 mn
2016	6,000	2.3 mn
2020	15,288	5.7 mn
2021	15,700	5.9 mn
2027*	18,000	6.8 mn

*Projected

The amount of Ejiao produced increased by 390% to 15,700 tonnes in 2021, which required close to 6 million donkey hides. By 2027, this figure is estimated to rise to 6.8 million donkey hides

Chart 2: Donkey population in China across years (in millions)

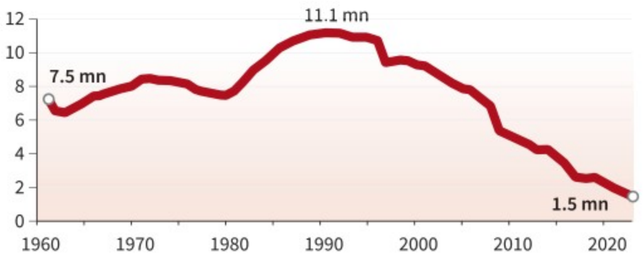
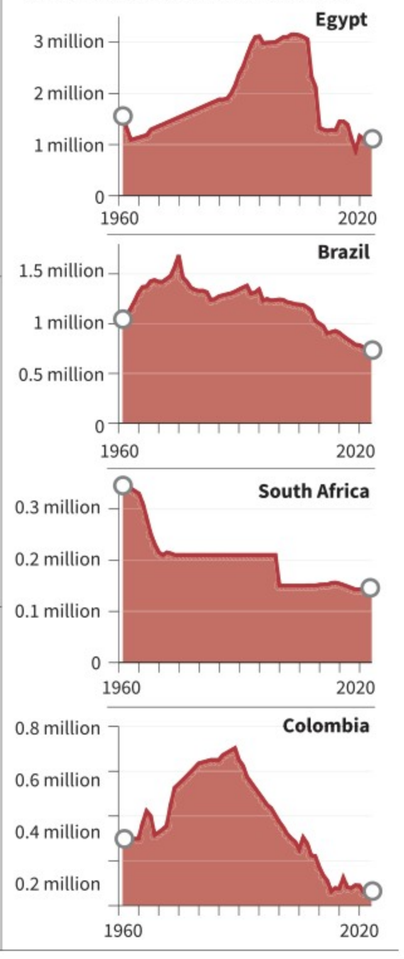


Chart 3: Region-wise share of equine hides imported by China in the last decade (2015-2025)

Chart 4: Donkey population in select African and South American countries



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1975

Jatti suggests use of Nagari as common script

New Delhi, Aug. 18: The Vice-President, Mr. B.D. Jatti, to-day pleaded for the use of Nagari script as an effective instrument to bring about unity, understanding and integration between different regions.

He said the use of Nagari script as the link between the South Indian languages of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam, and between the southern and northern languages would prove of the utmost benefit both to the south and to the north.

Inaugurating the Nagari Lipi Parishad here, Mr. Jatti said the South Indian languages were close to each other but were almost rigidly confined to their respective regions, because of difference in script. For a similar reason northerners were unable to understand Malayalam or Kannada even though 70 per cent of the words in these languages were in Sanskrit.

Mr. Jatti said the Devnagari script was currently in use in the languages of Marathi and Hindi and with slight variations this script was being used in many other languages prevalent in the north. It was also used in the ancient languages of Sanskrit, Ardharmagadhi and Pali.

"It need hardly be said that the Nagari script is not needed to learn one's own language but to learn a language other than one's own. This is necessary if we are to be united and conscious of our common literary and philosophic heritage," he observed.

It had been widely recognised that Devnagari had advantages as a script which roman and other scripts did not possess. In it there was no ambiguity in utterance as there was no divergence between spelling and pronunciation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1925

China's coastal traffic

Canton, Aug 18: The Chinese authorities have drawn up rules with regard to the coastal navigation, providing that steamers of any nationality except British and Japanese shall be allowed to run to and from any ports provided that they omit Hong Kong. All steamers entering that port must be inspected by a picket of Anti Imperialist Union. The export of foodstuffs or any other raw material from island will not be allowed.

From Page One

INDIA bloc considers motion to remove CEC

Mr. Venugopal asked, "Is it the duty of the CEC to indulge in politics?"

He said there was a consensus in the INDIA bloc on the issue and that the Opposition had enough numbers to move the motion.

According to sources, the Opposition discussed if it should continue with protests against the Election Commission, especially after the Supreme Court, in an interim order, directed the poll body to publish the details of 65 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral roll published on August 1 following the special intensive revision (SIR) in poll-bound Bihar. The leaders concurred that after the CEC's Sunday press conference, the protests had to continue.

Mr. Venugopal flagged the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which provides immunity to the CEC and Election Commissioners for all decisions taken by them in present and the past. He said that one should "read between the lines" why such an immunity was extended.

According to the Act, the CEC can be removed in the same manner and grounds as a Supreme Court judge. Parliament can dismiss the CEC by a motion with two-thirds majority in both the Houses. In order for the motion to be accepted, at least 50 members have to sign in its favour.

Later in the day, the INDIA bloc leaders held a press conference to "rebut" Sunday's press conference by the CEC. They said that the CEC failed to answer questions on why the SIR was being done in "such a hurry" when the State elections were three months away.

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ramgopal Yadav said that while the poll body asked Mr. Gandhi to give an affidavit, the SP had submitted affidavits with complaints of around 18,000 voters being removed from the list in 2022 before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election. No action was taken, he said. Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra said that if the voter list on which the last General Election was conducted was incorrect, the Lok Sabha should be dissolved. "Is the list on which the Lok Sabha election was done fraudulent? If that is true, the current and previous Election Commissioners should be prosecuted, and this Lok Sabha should be dissolved immediately," she said. Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Jha said, "Yesterday we were looking for our CEC, we found a new BJP spokesperson."

Zelenskyy, Trump hope for talks with Putin

"They want to give protection and they feel very strongly about it and we'll help them out with that," Mr. Trump said. "I think its very important to get the deal done."

Mr. Trump also said Mr. Putin had at summit talks last week accepted that there would be security guarantees for Ukraine as part of any peace deal. "In a very significant step, President Putin agreed that Russia would accept security guarantees for Ukraine and this is one of the key points that we need to consider and we're going to be considering that at the table, also who will do what essentially," Mr. Trump said. "I think the European nations are going to take a lot of the burden. We're going to help them and we're going to make it very secure," he said.

Monday's hastily assembled meeting comes after Mr. Trump met on Friday with Mr. Putin and has said that the onus is now on Mr. Zelenskyy to agree to concessions of land that he said could end the war.

"If everything works out today, we'll have a trilat," Mr. Trump said, referring to possible three-way talks among Mr. Zelenskyy, Mr. Putin and himself.

Mr. Trump also said he plans to talk to Mr. Putin after his meetings with Mr. Zelenskyy and European leaders. Mr. Zelenskyy expressed openness to trilateral talks.

De-escalation must go ahead, says Jaishankar

In a special gesture, Mr. Modi is also expected to meet Mr. Wang on Tuesday, ahead of his meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, at the SCO summit in Tianjin. "Having seen a difficult period in our relationship... our two nations now seek to move ahead," Mr. Jaishankar said in his opening remarks as the two sides met at the official venue, Hyderabad House. "The basis for any positive momentum in our ties is the ability to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in border areas."

"It is also essential that the de-escalation process move forward," he added, drawing attention to the fact that demobilisation at the LAC and dismantling of infrastructure, to return to the status quo before April 2020, have not been completed 10 months after the leaders met, although other parts of the relationship have been restored.

According to a statement issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wang pointed to global challenges, including "unilateral bullying" in "free trade and the international order", a reference to the U.S. trade tariffs. He said that China was prepared to work with India and other neighbours to establish five aspects of "peace, tranquility, prosperity, beauty and friendship". "Both sides should carefully draw on the lessons learned over the past 75 years... view each other as partners," Mr. Wang added.

'Country will ask for affidavit from EC'

Rahul Gandhi urges the people of Bihar to prevent 'vote theft' in the upcoming Assembly election and teach the poll body and the PM a 'lesson'; the Congress leader adds that when the INDIA bloc forms the government at the Centre, it will take 'strict action' against CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Amit Bhelari
AURANGABAD

A day after Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar gave an ultimatum to Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to file an affidavit regarding his allegations of voter roll manipulations in Karnataka within a week, the Congress leader hit back at the CEC saying that "the entire country will ask for an affidavit from the Election Commission of India".

"A day will come when the INDIA bloc will have a government in Bihar as well in the Centre. Then action would be taken. Election Commissioner, you understand it very well, that if you will not do your job properly, then strict action is going to be taken against you," Mr. Gandhi, who is on his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', said at a rally in Gaya district on Monday.

Furthering a cause: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves during a rally in Aurangabad in Bihar on Monday. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar are also seen. PTI

"The Election Commission has said that if I do not give an affidavit in one week then what I said is baseless. Wait for some time, the entire country will ask for an affidavit from it. We will reveal vote theft in every State. The SIR is a new way to steal votes," he alleged.

The Congress leader urged the crowd to prevent "vote theft" in the upcoming Bihar Assembly election. Mr. Gandhi said "the people of Bihar will teach a lesson" to the poll body and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "if they attempt vote theft" in the State.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, while addressing the rally, said the CEC has taken "membership of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)".

"We have to throw out the BJP who are cunning people... CEC Gyanesh Kumar should tell us whether he has taken a membership of BJP. Whatever instructions come from the PMO and Narendra Modi, Gyanesh Kumar speaks," he said.

Tejashwi's call

Mr. Yadav urged the people to support the grand alliance in Bihar to form the government.

He credited Mr. Gandhi with "destroying" the alleged "design of the BJP" to remove the names of the voters from the draft rolls.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Gandhi, and INDIA bloc leaders, resumed their march from Kutuma in Aurangabad district after visiting the Sun Temple in Deo.

They took out a roadshow in Aurangabad where a large number of party workers and supporters joined in raising slogans against the SIR, the poll body, Mr. Modi and the BJP.

Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Yadav, CPI (ML) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya and Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Mukesh Sahani interacted with people who had voted in the last few elections but whose names have been struck off the draft rolls.

In a message on X, Mr. Gandhi said, "Those who voted in the last 4-5 elections, their votes were also stolen in Bihar. And, when the reason was asked, only one answer was given – orders came from above. This is a fight for the rights of the poor – we will not stop. We will put an end to vote theft."

Any person missing from draft rolls may file a claim with copy of Aadhaar: EC

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

On a day that the Opposition INDIA bloc again questioned the Election Commission and its functioning, the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer on Monday issued an "important public notice" stating that "the electors whose names are not included in the draft roll and are dissatisfied may file a claim along with a copy of their Aadhaar card".

The EC's notice comes in light of the INDIA bloc's continued questioning of the SIR exercise.

After SC order

"In light of the interim order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 14.08.2025 in writ petition (s) (Civil) No (5) 640/ 2025 (Association of Democratic Reforms vs Election Commission of India) it is hereby notified that the list of such electors whose names were included in the electoral roll of the year 2025 (before the draft publication) but are not included in the draft roll published on August 1, 2025 along with reasons (deceased/ permanently shifted/ absent/ repeat entry), has been published on the websites of the Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar and all District Election Officers of the State of Bihar," CEO Vinod Singh Gunjiyal stated in the notice.

The notice further stated that "all such electors, whose names are not included in the draft roll, may obtain information about their entry and the reasons thereof by using their EPIC number in the published list". "The list relating to such electors not included in the draft roll published on 1.08.2025 has also been displayed at all Block Offices, Panchayat Offices, Urban Local Body Offices, and at the polling stations. Through these, such electors can obtain information regarding their entries along with the reasons. Any person dissatisfied may file a claim along with a copy of their Aadhaar card," it stated.

'Queries unanswered'

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner of India was giving excuses rather than answering the questions raised by the Opposition.

Bihar's Minister of Industries and BJP leader Nitish Mishra said, "Some political parties are misleading voters in the name of electoral rolls". Action must be taken against those spreading misinformation, he said.

Rahul's attack on EC shows frustration at losing polls, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the Congress and the Opposition of levelling baseless allegations against the Election Commission (EC) over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter list, under way in Bihar, stating that the Opposition wanted to protect illegal immigrants and win elections with those votes.

At a press conference here, BJP MP from Puri, Sambit Patra, blamed Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for attacking the EC "out of frustration."

Mr. Patra criticised Mr. Gandhi for spearheading a campaign against the poll body, alleging that the remarks that he was making against the constitutional bodies reflected the Gandhi family's frustration at remaining out of power.

"This reflects the frustration of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. They

Sambit Patra

have only one goal – the [Gandhi] family must gain power at any cost," the BJP spokesperson said.

The BJP MP said it was the EC's responsibility to ensure that those who were not citizens of the country did not cast votes in elections, but that Mr. Gandhi and the Opposition parties were raising questions on the revision of the voter list in Bihar to win the election on the votes of intruders and infiltrators.

"How to win elections through intruders, how to use intruders, how to carry forward appeasement politics – this is what the Congress and Rahul Gandhi have been doing," he said.

EC to conduct SIR of Odisha electoral rolls next month

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Election Commission (EC) will launch a special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Odisha in September, with preparations under way to mobilise manpower for 45,000 booths across the State.

The intensive revision is being conducted after 24 years in the State. "We will conduct the SIR in addition to the special summary revision carried out annually. The EC has asked all States to perform the SIR," said R.S. Gopalan, Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha, on Monday.

"As part of SIR, we will get a form filled up by voters this year. Voters are required to submit supporting documents with the forms," he said.

"We have 90% of the Elector's Photo Identity Card numbers linked to Aadhaar numbers. The duplication of EPICs is expected to reduce," he said.

U.S. monitors India and Pak. developments daily: Rubio

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

The U.S. keeps "an eye" on what's happening between India and Pakistan "every single day" as ceasefires can fall apart very quickly, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

In reply to a query on the Ukraine war during an interview with *NBC News*, Mr. Rubio said, "The only way to have a ceasefire is for both sides to agree to stop firing at one another. And the Russians just haven't agreed to that. Beyond that, I would say that one of the complications about ceasefires is they have to be maintained... I mean, every single day we keep an eye on what's happening between Pakistan and India, Cambodia and Thailand".

"What we're aiming for is not some permanent ceasefire. What we're aiming for here is a peace deal so there's not a war now and there's not a war in the future," Mr. Rubio said.

Two days following Trump summit, Putin talks to Modi about Ukraine, bilateral ties

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Two days after his summit with U.S. President Donald Trump in Alaska, Russian President Vladimir Putin called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and informed him about the discussions he had with the U.S. leadership. The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that Mr. Modi presented India's "consistent position" about finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine while Mr. Putin presented his "assessment" of his conversation with Mr. Trump.

"India has consistently called for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and supports all efforts in this regard. I look forward to our continued exchanges in the days to come," Mr. Modi said, while thanking Mr. Putin for sharing the "insights on his recent meeting with President Trump in Alaska".

Old allies: This is the second conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin in a fortnight. FILE PHOTO

This is the second conversation between Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin in a fortnight and was indicative of the pace of talks between Russia and India as it was held days before the arrival of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Moscow. Earlier, on August 7, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had met Mr. Putin in the Kremlin even as Mr. Trump declared an additional 25% tariff on India.

Earlier this week, Mr. Modi had a telephone conversation with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which Mr. Zelenskyy reiterated the need to include Ukraine in international dialogue that would decide the fate of the country.

After Monday's phone call between Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin, the External Affairs Ministry also said that the two leaders "also touched upon a number of issues of bilateral cooperation" hinting at the India-Russia talks that are under way ahead of the annual Russia-India summit for which Mr. Putin will visit India.

Oppn. raises issue of China's military support to Pakistan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Coinciding with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's arrival in New Delhi, the Congress on Monday raised the issue of China's military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

"Only three months ago, China gave total military support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, providing it with weapon systems such as the J-10C fighter and PL-15 air-to-air missile and a variety of missiles and drones," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"China provided Pakistan live intelligence against India according to Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Rahul R. Singh, who went so far as to state on July 4, 2025, that China was one of the "adversaries" India was fighting during Operation Sindoor," Mr. Ramesh added.

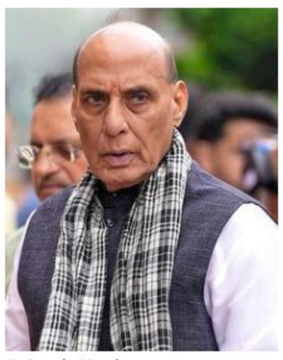
The Congress leader also said China is constructing a 60 GW dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river that will have implications for India and claimed that the disengagement process with China is far from what existed before May 2020, when Indian and Chinese troops faced off in eastern Ladakh.

Flagging the same issue of Chinese support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi shared a news report that claimed Indian business groups such as "Adani and Ambani are hunting for Chinese technology as ties warm on U.S. tariffs".

"Is this the reason for why the Modi Govt is rushing to have friendly ties with China?" Mr. Owaisi asked on X, referring to the reports that read: "A growing wave of Indian businesses are seeking partnerships with Chinese companies for technology transfer".

Rajnath gets YSRCP to back NDA parties' Vice-Presidential pick

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI


Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday gathered support for the National Democratic Alliance's Vice-Presidential candidate, Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, reaching out to non-NDA parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju has been appointed Mr. Radhakrishnan's polling agent.

Mr. Singh managed to secure the support of the YSRCP after he spoke to party leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. YSRCP Lok Sabha member Maddila Gurumoorthy confirmed that his party, with 11 MPs – four in the Lok Sabha and seven in the Rajya Sabha – will vote for Mr. Radhakrishnan.

The DMK is part of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), which held a meeting on Monday evening to pick its own Vice-Presidential candidate. Thus, there was not much optimism in the NDA that the DMK would support Mr. Radhakrishnan, who is from Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Radhakrishnan arrived in Delhi on Monday, where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other NDA leaders at Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's residence and will likely be felicitated at the NDA's Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday. He is expected to file his nominations for the election on August 20.

Soon after meeting with Mr. Radhakrishnan, Mr. Modi posted on X, "Met Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji. Conveyed my best wishes on his being the NDA's Vice Presidential nominee. His long years of public service and experience across domains will greatly enrich our nation. May he continue to serve the nation with the same dedication and resolve he has always demonstrated."

INDIA bloc meeting on V-P polls remains inconclusive

Former ISRO Director Mylswamy Annadurai and social activist Tushar Gandhi among the names discussed; another meeting to be held today before the alliance announces its choice for the polls

Sobhana K. Nair
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Congress's Gaurav Gogoi, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, and AAP's Sanjay Singh addressing the media. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Mylswamy Annadurai and social activist Tushar Gandhi were among the names that were discussed at a meeting of INDIA bloc leaders on Monday at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to decide the Opposition candidate for the Vice-Presidential polls.

The meeting, however, remained inconclusive and another meeting will take place on Tuesday before the final announcement.

"A meeting of leaders of all Opposition parties in Parliament will be held at 12:30 PM tomorrow Tuesday Aug 19th at 10, Rajaji Marg," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

According to sources, the Congress president, who is also the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, is committed to fielding a candidate and not concede without a contest. He would be reaching out to top Opposition leaders on phone to arrive at the widest possible consensus.

On Sunday night, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had reached out to the leaders of some Opposition parties, including Mr. Kharge, for unanimously electing the new Vice-President.

Sources said the Opposition wants to field a non-political face who has national standing and stature for the second-highest constitutional position in the country.

The Vice-Presidential election, necessitated by the sudden resignation of incumbent Jagdeep Dhankhar last month, is scheduled for September 9. The last date for filing nominations is August 21.

Though no name was finalised, several possible candidates were considered. According to sources, on DMK's suggestion, Mr. Annadurai, a scientist and former ISRO director, was discussed.

Mr. Annadurai, who had shot to limelight steering the ISRO's Chandrayaan Mission, hails from the same Kongu region as Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, the NDA candidate for the Vice-President's post. The former ISRO director's scientific and apolitical background is an advantage.

If a consensus on Mr. Radhakrishnan's candidature emerges within the Opposition ranks and if he agrees to contest, it will help the DMK and its allies politically as they will not be seen as "anti-Tamil" in opposing NDA's vice-presidential choice.

The Trinamool Congress, however, was of the opinion that it would be "reactive" to field another Tamil in response to the NDA's pick.

Another name that is said to have been discussed is Tushar Gandhi, author and the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, sources claimed.

There were also some reservations among RJD and SP leaders about contesting the vice-presidential polls since the numbers are loaded in favour of the NDA. They argued that since the Opposition does not have the requisite numbers, it should let this election go in view of the upcoming Bihar polls.

The SP also argued that the Opposition should focus its energy on its campaign against the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

(With inputs from B. Kolappan in Chennai)

INBRIEF

Centre introduces Bill in LS to establish IIM in Guwahati

The Centre will set up an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Guwahati, Assam, with the introduction of Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025, on Monday in the Lok Sabha. The Bill was introduced by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. According to the draft law, the Centre, the State government, and representatives of the United Liberation Front of Assam have signed a Memorandum of Settlement. "Establishing an IIM shall boost the education and development of the region and open up opportunities for the students to develop managerial skills," the Bill said.

Modi chairs high-level meet on next-generation reforms

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting, which included top Union Ministers, Secretaries, and economists, to deliberate on the road map for next-generation reforms. Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Piyush Goyal, and Lalan Singh attended the meeting. Mr. Modi had on August 15 announced the formation of a task force for 'next-generation reforms' and revision of GST laws, as he devoted a major part of his speech to making India self-reliant in a host of sectors ranging from semiconductors to fertilizers. PTI

West Bengal CM announces scheme for migrant workers

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a new scheme to provide monthly cash incentives to migrant workers who return to the State after facing harassment in other States. Speaking to presspersons, Ms. Banerjee said the scheme will be called *Shramashree* and will provide a monthly stipend of ₹5,000 to such migrant workers for up to one year till they get a job. The Chief Minister said migrant workers and their families will get the benefits of other schemes of the State government as well, including ration cards and the *Swasthya Sathi* free healthcare scheme cards.

BJD submits memorandum to President on farmer distress

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Monday took out a massive rally in Bargarh, a prominent western Odisha district, highlighting farm distress and the complicated registration process for the upcoming paddy procurement process in the State. Senior BJD leaders submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu through the District Collector. "Farmers are now required to submit detailed family genealogy records, complete Aadhaar e-KYC for all family members, and provide consent letters. These cumbersome rules have created endless difficulties for farmers," the BJD said.

Indian astronaut to land on moon in 2040: Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In chaos: Opposition members protesting in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

An Indian astronaut will herald "Viksit Bharat" by landing on the moon in 2040, Union Minister Jitendra Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Monday as the House took up the discussion on astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla being the first Indian to visit the International Space Station.

Initiating the discussion on the critical role of the space programme for Viksit Bharat by 2047, Mr. Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook space sector reforms after assuming office in 2014.

Future initiatives

Mr. Singh said that after opening up the space sector for private players in 2020, India's space economy had already reached $8 billion and would touch $45 billion in the next decade.

Mr. Singh said India would undertake an uncrewed space mission involving a robot, Vyommitra, in 2026, followed by its maiden human spaceflight – Gaganyaan – in 2027. "India will set up its own Bharat Antariksh Station in 2035 and in 2040, an Indian astronaut will set foot on the moon," he added.

Inconclusive discussion

The discussion remained inconclusive as the House had to be adjourned because of persistent sloganeering by the Opposition members over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

As soon as the proceedings of the Lower House started at 11 a.m., the Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans and showing placards with their demand for a discussion on the SIR.

Initially, Speaker Om Birla tried to continue the business of the House – Question Hour – by allowing members to ask six questions related to several Union Ministries and departments amid the din. After 15 minutes, he adjourned the House till 12 p.m. When the House reassembled, the Opposition members trooped into the well with slogans like "*Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod*" (vote thief, vacate the seat).

Matter of pride: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Shubhanshu Shukla, at his residence in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

PM lauds astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who became the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station.

Mr. Shukla was part of the Axiom-4 commercial mission to the ISS. Mr. Shukla gifted Mr. Modi the mission patch of the Axiom-4 mission and the Indian tricolour that he had taken with him to the ISS.

"We discussed a wide range of subjects, including his experiences in space, progress in science & technology, as well as India's Gaganyaan mission. India is proud of his feat," Mr. Modi said on X.

Centre rolls out PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana portal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana portal on Monday. Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked first-time employees and employers to take benefit of the scheme.

The Centre had said that the scheme, recently approved by the Cabinet, will generate 3.5 crore jobs.

Dr. Mandaviya said all employers and first-time employees are covered under the scheme.

He said the beneficiaries can avail incentives by registering on the portal or by uploading their Universal Account Number on the UMANG application.

Part A of the scheme is for first-time employees and Part B is for employers.

Rajya Sabha passes Indian Ports Bill as Oppn. boycotts debate over SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Future road map: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal speaks in the Rajya Sabha on Monday. ANI

The Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Ports Bill, 2025, on Monday that replaces the Indian Ports Act of 1908. While piloting the Bill, Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said in the Upper House that the revamped legislation was a strategic intervention to reposition India's maritime sector for the 21st century.

The Bill provides for the establishment of the Maritime State Development Council by the Union government, which would be responsible for making recommendations to the government for the growth of the port sector and to promote competition and efficiency in the operation of ports. The Bill empowers the government to notify a new port or to alter the limits of any port and to formulate a national perspective plan for maritime trade.

Mr. Sonowal said the Bill was more than a legislative change and added that despite the progress made, the sector was still governed by a colonial law, the Indian Ports Act of 1908. "This outdated statute lacks provisions for long-term planning, modern environmental safeguards, and efficient dispute resolution. It is a legislative framework from a bygone era, unsuited for a modern, digitalised maritime ecosystem. The Indian Ports Bill, 2025, is our answer to this challenge. It is the product of extensive consultation with coastal States, industry stakeholders, and the public, embodying the spirit of cooperative federalism," he said.

After a brief discussion, the Bill was passed. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill earlier last week.

Microphone turned off

Earlier, when the House met after lunch at 2 p.m., the Opposition boycotted the discussion on the Bill and walked out of the House, demanding a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. Soon after Mr. Sonowal tabled the Bill, BJD's Sasmit Patra, who was in the Chair, invited Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge to speak. When Mr. Kharge raised the issue of SIR, his microphone was turned off twice, and Mr. Patra said *sub judice* issues should not be raised in the House. Protesting against this, the Opposition walked out. The Leader of the House, J.P. Nadda, said the Opposition had been disrupting the House over non-issues.

Govt. introduces Bill in LS to decriminalise over 200 provisions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Govt. has asked the Speaker of the House to refer the Bill to a Select Committee for review

The government on Monday introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha. The Bill aims to amend 355 provisions across 16 Central Acts to ease their applicability.

Of these, 288 provisions are proposed to be decriminalised, and 67 provisions are proposed to be amended to facilitate "ease of living". The government has asked the Speaker of the House to refer the Bill to a Select Committee for review. This Bill would build upon the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, which was the first consolidated legislation to decriminalise minor offences across multiple Acts, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release.

The 2023 Act decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries or Departments. The main features of the amendments proposed in the 2025 legislation is for first-time contraventions to only attract an advisory or warning for 76 offences under 10 Acts.

Further, the release said that imprisonment clauses for minor, technical or procedural defaults will be replaced with monetary penalties or warnings. The penalties, too, will be made "proportionate", with penalties gradually increasing for repeated offences.

Nadda slams Nehru over Indus Waters Treaty

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J. P. Nadda on Monday said that by putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had tried to correct a "Himalayan blunder" committed by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

On X, Mr. Nadda went into the details on the inception of the IWT and said that Nehru had not taken Parliament into confidence while concluding the agreement.

"History must call it what it was: Nehru's Himalayan Blunder. Even today, India would have continued to pay the price for one man's misplaced idealism, if not for Prime Minister Modi's commitment to nation first," he added.

INBRIEF

SC won't intervene in quashed case linked to MP's death

The Supreme Court on Monday did not intervene in the quashing of a suicide abetment case in connection with the death of MP Mohan Delkar. The Bombay High Court had quashed the case registered against nine persons accused in the case, including Praful Khoda Patel, the Administrator of the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep in September 2022. On February 22, 2021, Delkar, 58, a seven-term parliamentarian, was found dead in a hotel room in Marine Drive.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health. Telephone: 011-4076 9002

Newborn dies after falling from hospital bed in Assam

The Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) authorities have ordered investigations into the death of a newborn who fell from a phototherapy bed at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Born on August 15, the infant had been undergoing treatment for jaundice. The baby was found hanging from the railing of a phototherapy bed at around 5:30 p.m. on Monday and declared dead later. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma warned of strong action if negligence of duty is found to be the reason behind the "unfortunate and painful incident". Utpal Bordoloi, the infant's father, said he would file a complaint with the police and take legal action.

7 killed as heavy rain batters Maharashtra; 800 villages hit

Four lakh hectares of cropland damaged in State; Mumbai receives 177 mm rain in six hours, leading to waterlogging in several areas; Chief Minister Fadnavis holds meeting with State officials

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Seven people died over the past two days as heavy rain battered several parts of Maharashtra, officials said on Monday. Five people were also missing in the State, they said.

The incessant rainfall has affected more than 800 villages and four lakh hectares of agricultural land. Six deaths were reported from the Marathwada region.

Rescue and relief operations were on in at least four villages, even as 206 villagers were rescued by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the armed forces in Nanded district. Several houses were damaged and livestock was lost due to heavy rainfall.

The downpour brought Mumbai to a standstill after 177 mm rain was reported in six hours on Monday.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis held a review meeting with all State government officials and directed the administrative machinery to remain prepared. "Between August 18 and August 21, there are chances of heavy rainfall. Around 16 districts are on red or orange alert," Mr. Fadnavis said after the briefing.

Deep waters: A woman wades through a waterlogged road amid heavy rain in Mumbai on Monday. The IMD has issued a red alert for the city. EMMANUAL YOGINI

At several places, including Mumbai and Thane, schools and colleges announced a holiday on Tuesday in view of the red alert.

Discharge from dams

Panchanamas have been ordered in several districts.

The Maharashtra government is also in touch with the governments of Telangana and Karnataka in order to discharge excess water from dams. The situation at Almatti dam is being reviewed closely, Mr. Fadnavis said.

Severe waterlogging was reported in several low-lying areas of Mumbai. Vehicles remained stuck in traffic for hours, leading to transport disruptions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for the city and its neighbouring districts. Authorities appealed to citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. Offices were asked to let employees leave early.

A protection wall constructed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority collapsed in Chembur on Sunday, damaging seven shanties. However, no one was injured. In another incident, a school bus carrying six children and two staff members was stranded in Matunga for some time. They were later rescued by the police.

Supreme Court says injured cadets can't be left 'high and dry'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The SC highlighted that the risks involved in cadets' training was very high.

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Union government to respond to a *suo motu* case registered on the basis of a media report that armed forces cadets "medically boarded out" after training accidents are left "high and dry", without any substantial efforts taken to cover their treatment expenses or rehabilitation.

Justice Nagarathna remarked how after training, cadets came out with flying colours, but there were some who quietly exited due to their injuries with only about ₹40,000 as an *ex gratia* amount.

"They undergo rigorous training. They are brave. The risks involved in their training are very high. If nothing is done when they suffer accidents, people who look up to the armed forces and want to join would be disheartened. These are, after all, accidents, and not caused by the cadets' negligence. These are also rare occurrences. There should be some scheme worked out to protect them," Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed orally in court.

The court asked Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati to take instructions from the government departments concerned, and revert on whether there would be any increase in the medical expenses allowed to cadets who had to abort their career due to injuries.

Ms. Bhati was ordered to enquire if there would be any insurance cover. "A group insurance scheme would put the burden on the insurer," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Alternative training

The court suggested the government could consider providing injured cadets alternative training and posts in the armed forces after their medical treatment.

The court scheduled the case for September 4 to hear the initial response of the Centre to the case.

Unemployment rate declines to 5.2% in July: govt. survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The rate of unemployment in the country declined to 5.2% in July from 5.6% in June, shows the Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women showed a marginal increase to 25.5% in July from 24.5% in June. The LFPR for men stood at 57.4%, while for all persons, it was 41.4%.

The LFPR for men aged 15 and above in rural areas was 78.1% and for women, it was 36.9%. "In urban areas, the LFPR among females of age 15 years and above during July was 25.8% compared with 75.1% observed for males of the same age group," the survey noted.

The number of persons covered by the survey was 3,79,222 (2,16,832 in rural areas and 1,62,390 in urban areas). FILE PHOTO

The unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 and above stood at 5.2%. In rural areas, it was 4.4% and 7.2% in urban areas. For women in rural areas, the UR was 3.9%. For men, it was 4.6%. For women in urban areas, the UR was was 8.7% compared with 6.6% among men.

The Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which defines the proportion of those who are employed among the total population, in rural areas for persons aged 15 and above was 54.4%. In June it was 53.3%. The WPR in urban areas was 47% and at the national level, it was 52%, 0.8 percentile points higher than June.

The Labour Bureau surveyed 89,505 (49,355 in rural areas and 40,150 in urban areas) households and the number of persons surveyed was 3,79,222 (2,16,832 in rural areas and 1,62,390 in urban areas).

SC defers hearing Punjab petition over delay in clearing Bills

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred hearing a petition filed by the Punjab government challenging the President's prolonged delay in acting on two State Bills referred to her by the Governor.

The State government had contended that its case is squarely covered by the court's April 8 ruling in the Tamil Nadu Governor case, which laid down timelines for gubernatorial action on Bills. Accordingly, it had urged the court either to direct the Governor to comply with the ruling or to declare the Governor's inaction illegal and treat the Bills as having received "deemed assent".

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai decided to await the outcome of a Constitution Bench hearing a Presidential Reference under its advisory jurisdiction on whether the court can prescribe timelines for Governors and the President in dealing with State Bills submitted for assent or reserved for their consideration. It declined to entertain an interim application by the Centre seeking to refer Punjab's petition to the Constitution Bench hearing the Reference.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, argued that the petition should be heard by a Constitution Bench. However, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the Punjab government, opposed the Centre's request and sought time to file a counter-affidavit.

UNHCR suspends repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

UNHCR, the refugee agency of the United Nations, has temporarily suspended the process of facilitating the repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees apprehending arrest upon their arrival in Sri Lanka.

The repatriation of seven refugees from Tiruchi to Colombo on August 14, 2025, was called off in the last minute amid reports of at least four refugees being detained on charges of violating immigration laws on arrival in Sri Lanka.

According to official sources, Freeman Richard Velvavandram (54), whose return was facilitated by the UNHCR was arrested on arrival at the Colombo international airport on August 12, 2025. He was produced before a Judicial Magistrate and let on bail. However, a review of the voluntary repatriation documentation revealed no prior security concerns associated with his return, the sources said.

Similarly on May 28, 2025, another Tamil refugee who left the country decades ago during the civil war was arrested after he landed in Jaffna.

A Sri Lankan Tamil couple that flew to the Jaffna international airport without UNHCR facilitation in the first week of August was also arrested. The couple had reportedly been residing in India since 1996 in the Mandapam refugee camp in Tamil Nadu. Upon arrival, they were detained by the immigration authorities and handed over to the police for further investigation, the sources said.

This is the first time that Sri Lankan authorities are arresting voluntarily returning refugees on charges of leaving the country without a valid passport or travel documents.

"The fundamental principle is to ensure the safety and dignity of the voluntarily returning refugees. Arrests are not made unless there is a criminal case pending. Violation of immigration laws are condoned since the refugees fled the country fearing threat to their lives in the ethnic conflict," a senior official involved in the repatriation process told *The Hindu*.

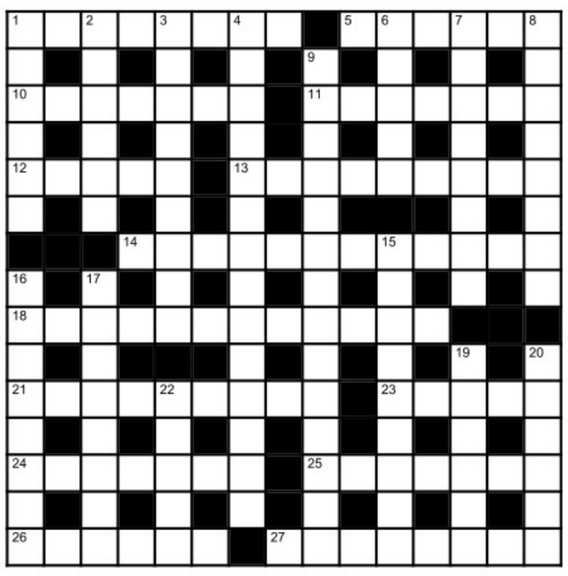
The official who did not want to be quoted said the issue was being taken up through diplomatic channels. "The process of repatriation would be put on hold till such time there is an assurance from the Sri Lankan authorities that the refugees would not be arrested for violating immigration rules and will be treated with dignity," the official said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14567

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Average American chap touring a South American country (8)
5 Climax as groom passionately expresses love (6)
10 Suspect in retreat smuggling dope and ecstasy is a spa employee (7)
11 Dump rotten egg picked up by boy (7)
12 Scratched back, having ultimately irritating fungal disease (5)
13 Extraordinary trick to steal painting by Leonardo at inauguration (9)
14/16 How to make quartet draw a conclusion from various facts (3,3,3,3,8)
18 Noticeable rash developing around body part with the passage of time (4,3,5)
21 Wondered about saving a little income to provide comfort in retirement (9)
23 Jagged lesion around middle of leg (5)
24 Heroin used by Romeo to get more aroused (7)
25 Fantastic recipe captivating posh gourmet (7)
26 Tottered in base, left enthralled by grass (6)
27 Leave furtively with most affectionate fellow to have liaison (5,3)

Down

1 Pet beginning to meow in study (6)
2 Abandon girl, captivated by exotic siren (6)
3 Elderly relative's wasted after drinking a little rum with lunch (5-4)
4 Terribly scared, host runs after snake enters, affecting everyone (6-3-5)
6 Renovate bar after terrible fire (5)
7 Lovers disregarding caste initially suffered ostracism (8)
8 Crazy journalist penning sentimental drivel was successful (4,4)
9 Playing around with lean, lithe models hosting party? No chance at all! (3,1,4,2,4)
15 European is wearing no pants (9)
16 See 14 Across
17 Info on male arrested by brave police officer in France (8)
19 Arboreal mammal in enclosure almost bites bear (6)
20 Concerning this star cuddling English female (6)
22 Releasing old thick-skinned animal close to Assamese river (5)

SUDOKU

7								
8		6		7	3	9		2
	2				6		8	5
		5	4		2			
	6			9			3	
			3		8	6		
9	4		6				7	
5		7	2	8		4		1
								9

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

		A	C	T			I	A
I	N	S	T	A	T	E		R	E	L	A	P	S	E
M		H		M		L	A		L		O		R
P	A	Y	E	E		E	N	C	O	U	N	T	E	R
U				R		P	Y		S		H		A
G	O	U	L	A	S	H			L	I	V	E	I	N
N		N				O		E		O		O		D
	E	F	F	E	C	T	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	
A		A		N		O		E				I		B
C	O	M	I	T	Y			R	E	I	S	S	U	E
T		I		A		M		G		C				G
S	P	L	E	N	D	O	U	R		I	N	T	R	O
U		I		G		A		E		C		A		N
P	H	A	B	L	E	T		E	C	L	I	P	S	E
		R		E				N		E		E		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	3	1	5	6	8	9	2
1	8	9	4	3	2	5	7	6
2	5	6	9	8	7	3	1	4
6	9	7	8	2	5	4	3	1
8	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	9
4	1	2	3	6	9	7	5	8
3	6	1	2	7	8	9	4	5
5	7	4	6	9	1	2	8	3
9	2	8	5	4	3	1	6	7

FAITH

The sacred 108 temples

While there are many temples for Lord Narayana, there are 108, which are called Divya Desams, because they have been praised by the Azhvars. Pillai Perumal Iyengar, who came centuries after the Azhvars, wrote a work titled *Nootrettu Tirupathi Andadi*. This work is about the 108 kshetras praised by the Azhvars, said K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. *Andadi* is a genre of literature, where the last word of a verse becomes the first word of the succeeding verse.

Pillai Perumal Iyengar tells us the location of the 108 sacred places. He records that Chola Nadu has two score Divya Desams. That means Chola Nadu has 40 Divya Desams. Pandya Nadu has two times nine, that is 18 divya desams. Malai Nadu (Kerala) has 13 divya desams. The region between the south and north of Tamil Nadu has two temples. We get the number of temples in Tondai Nadu, that is the northern part of Tamil Nadu, by adding six to two times eight. In other words, Tondai Nadu has 22 divya desams. Divya desams to the north of Tamil Nadu are 12 in number, including Salagramam in Nepal, and Thiruppar-kadal. Sri Vaikuntha, the abode of Lord Narayana, is also added to the list, and that brings the total to 108 most sacred places.

Instead of blandly stating that there are 108 sacred places, Pillai Perumal Iyengar says it with rhyme and metre, making it easy to commit the locations to memory. Pillai Perumal Iyengar has praised these 108 places in his verses. Before he praises the deities of the various kshetras, he offers his salutations to the Azhvars. The work begins with descriptions of the temples of Chola Nadu.

INBRIEF

LIC to offer concession in late fee on lapsed policies revival

LIC on Monday launched a special revival campaign for individual lapsed policies under which it will provide concession on late fee. Up to 30% concession will be provided on the late fee, subject to a maximum of ₹5,000, for all non-linked insurance policies eligible for revival under the campaign that will be in force till October 17. Policies can be revived within 5 years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to satisfying the policy terms and conditions.

Goldman Sachs opens new, expanded office in Mumbai

Goldman Sachs announced the inauguration of a new, expanded office space in Mumbai. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the office at Ascent Worli. "Our new Mumbai office is the next chapter in our multi-decade growth trajectory in India, underscoring the substantial opportunities we see in the market," said Kevin Sneader, President, Asia Pacific Ex-Japan of Goldman Sachs. The new office occupies the 10th floor and half of the ninth floor of Ascent Worli.

RIL arm acquires majority stake in JV with Naturedge

Reliance Consumer Products, the FMCG arm of RIL, has forayed into the fast-growing healthy functional beverage space with the acquisition of majority stake in a JV with Naturedge Beverages Private Ltd. Through this JV, RCPL is focused on offering consumers a range of herbal-natural beverages. Founded in 2018 by Siddhesh Sharma, Naturedge Beverages has since focused on solutions that infuse the benefits of Indian Ayurveda and contemporary beverage choices.

GST 2.0 fuels market rally; Nifty closes 1% higher after two months

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Stock markets rose sharply on Monday, with Nifty closing 1% higher to 24,877 points for the first time in two months, buoyed by the GST reforms announcement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Accordingly, Nifty stocks of consumer-centric sectors such as automobile, consumer durables and FMCG rallied.

While Nifty Auto rose 4.18%, closing at 25,127.20 points, Nifty Consumer durables rallied 3.4% to 38,590.60 points, and Nifty Realty rose 2.18% to close at 898.45 points. BSE Sensex jumped 676.09 points, or 0.84%, to settle at 81,273.75.

Other factors

Besides the response to the GST announcement, a combination of a positive outlook on the global and domestic economy led to the rally that broke two months of a tepid market.

On the domestic front, an eight-year low inflation and S&P's credit rating upgrade to 'BBB' for the first time in 18 years, fuelled the rally. Despite nine consecutive quarters of tepid earnings, analysts said both consumer durables and staples earnings reported "better than expected revenue prints and management commentary." They added that a potential tariff relief from the U.S. and cheaper crude helped keep Nifty afloat.

Indian broadcasters staring at crores in licence fee dues

Unpaid fees by distributors in Nepal and Bangladesh are in excess of ₹350 crore; broadcasters hesitant to cut off link as firms of both countries "could simply pirate an Indian retail feed"

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

TV broadcasters in India are due hundreds of crores in overdue license fee payments from distributors in Nepal and Bangladesh, a problem that has been getting worse over the last year, two executives with knowledge of the payment issues told *The Hindu*. The problem has been particularly acute in Bangladesh, where after the ouster of former president Sheikh Hasina, TV distributors have stopped paying Indian broadcasters the fees they are due for transmitting their channels.

Many Indian channels are popular in Nepal and Bangladesh, so much so that broadcasters give distributors in that country a "clean feed," a stripped-down live broadcast without Indian ads. In Nepal, which has had issues in the last few years of withheld payments to telecom companies like Airtel, the dues exceeded ₹100 crore in the last few weeks. Bangladeshi broadcasters also owe over ₹250 crore, one executive said.

In Airtel's case in 2023, the telecom company cut off its link to Nepal briefly, before turning it back on in a few hours, underlining the stakes if payments did not come through.

One executive speaking to *The Hindu* said major Indian broadcasters are hesitating to do the same as broadcasters in both countries could simply pirate an Indian retail feed, ending any hope of recovering due license fees, and posing enormous challenges in re-entering the market.

In Nepal, Indian channels have been facing issues with the government since April 2023, when the country's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MoCIT) gave every broadcaster just two days to implement an "à la carte" pricing system.

In Bangladesh, Beximcom, the country's largest conglomerate with over $1 billion in assets, has not received remittance clearance from the Bank of Bangladesh to pay Indian broadcasters, and the political situation in the country has left diplomats and politicians with little interest to deal with the commercial concerns of broadcasters, one executive said.

The Hindu has sought comments from the Nepalese embassy and the High Commission of Bangladesh. The Ministry of External Affairs did not immediately respond to a query on the dues.

Payment alert

Overdue licence fee payments from distributors in Nepal and Bangladesh is said to have worsened over the last year

- Nepalese distributor dues exceeded ₹100 crore in the last few weeks; Bangladeshi broadcasters owe over ₹250 crore
- In Bangladesh, distributors stopped paying Indian broadcasters after the ouster of former president Sheikh Hasina
- In Nepal, the communication ministry gave broadcasters just 2 days to implement an 'à la carte' pricing

'50% tariff will reduce Indian goods demand very substantially'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The combined 50% tariff on Indian exports to the U.S. will reduce demand for Indian goods "very substantially", Moody's Analytics said in a report.

The report was talking about the combined effect of the ongoing 25% tariff on Indian imports imposed by U.S President Donald Trump and his secondary tariff of 25% imposed for India's economic dealings with Russia.

MCX revises nickel future specifications to boost market efficiency

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Commodity bourse MCX on Monday announced modifications to the contract specifications of nickel futures contracts.

The modifications, effective from August 18, include changes to the trading unit, expiry date, and delivery arrangements. The modifications are part of MCX's efforts to make Nickel futures contracts more efficient, MD and CEO Praveena Rai said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,274	0.84
US Dollar	87.39	0.22
Gold	1,00,920	0.00
Brent oil	66.10	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2333.60	52.00
Adani Ports	1327.20	26.90
Apollo Hosp	7822.50	1.00
Asian Paints	2587.40	58.70
Axis Bank	1082.60	14.40
Bajaj Auto	8588.50	375.00
Bajaj Finserv	1993.50	68.40
Bajaj Finance	905.20	43.75
Bharat Elec	382.50	-2.40
Bharti Airtel	1892.30	18.50
Cipla	1565.20	1.20
Coal India	387.80	3.35
Dr Reddys Lab	1262.70	2.30
Eicher Motors	5912.00	148.00
Eternal Ltd.	314.90	-3.50
Grasim Ind	2845.90	81.00
HCL Tech	1485.00	-4.80
HDFC Bank	2003.60	12.50
HDFC Life	791.00	2.25
Hero MotoCorp	4984.00	275.90
Hindalco	714.15	18.90
Hind Unilever	2568.10	87.50
ICICI Bank	1434.60	7.30
IndusInd Bank	788.65	18.90
Infosys	1435.80	-11.90
ITC	406.30	-5.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	329.35	1.95
JSW Steel	1079.80	34.30
Kotak Bank	2001.40	23.20
L&T	3635.10	-41.90
M&M	3383.10	117.70
Maruti Suzuki	14068.00	1132.00
NestleIndia	1144.10	54.70
NTPC	336.05	-3.30
ONGC	238.16	1.22
PowerGrid Corp	290.35	1.65
Reliance Ind	1381.70	7.90
SBI Life	1863.00	22.40
State Bank	827.65	1.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	626.80	10.35
Sun Pharma	1632.70	-8.70
TataConsumerProduct	1071.30	20.10
Tata Motors	676.00	11.40
Tata Steel	157.96	2.66
TCS	3011.20	-11.10
Tech Mahindra	1471.20	-15.50
Titan	3554.80	65.40
Trent Ltd.	5519.00	148.50
UltraTech Cement	12765.00	448.00
Wipro	245.21	-1.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.15	87.47
Euro	101.84	102.22
British Pound	118.04	118.48
Japanese Yen (100)	59.11	59.33
Chinese Yuan	12.14	12.19
Swiss Franc	108.02	108.43
Singapore Dollar	67.96	68.21
Canadian Dollar	63.18	63.42
Malaysian Ringitt	20.63	20.73
Australian Dollar	56.75	56.97

Source:Indian Bank

MNCs keen on Grade A office space: Bharti Real Estate CEO

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

With the Indian economy growing better than the rest of the world, multinational corporations (MNCs) operating in the country are looking to lease more office space in Grade A assets and those yet to come are making inquiries.

As a result, there is more demand for commercial real estate in India than supply, said Bharti Real Estate CEO Sushil Kumar Sayal during an interaction with *The Hindu*.

The GBD will see an employee base of two lakh on a daily basis, says Sayal.

Huge potential

"India's economic growth is nothing short of remarkable. There is recognition of India's strength and capabilities and that demands high quality commercial assets to be developed. We have acknowledged this need, and furthered our office and retail leasing portfolio with an expansive addition driven by deep market research and dialogues with top businesses and brands," he said.

"Now, all the unicorns are looking for 50,000 to one lakh square feet area kind of requirements. So, who is going to give that? There are only couple of corporate developers like us who are doing these kinds of developments," Mr. Sayal added.

"And those who are not here, they are all looking at it. And those who are not looking at it now, will all come in three years because there will be nothing comparable available," the CEO averred.

"Today, in terms of [the Indian] economy rising, all the companies are making a beeline to this country," he emphasised.

The CEO recalled when Bharti Real Estate, a part of Bharti Enterprises, started the Worldmark commercial real estate project at Aerocity in New Delhi, many were sceptical about the demand for space.

Making a beeline

"But now, people are making a beeline for these kinds of areas. They are coming to India or they are expanding business in the country," he said.

Global business district

He said with an investment of about $2 billion, Bharti Real Estate will building 20 million sq. ft. of commercial space by 2031 under the Worldmark brand, which will be India's first boundary-less Global Business District (GBD) when complete. This GBD will also have The Mall slated to open in 2027, he added.

Spread across 90 acre, the Worldmark is being developed as per the vision of Sunil Bharti Mittal, who has built Bharti Airtel into one of the largest telecom companies globally.

This GBD will see an employee base of two lakh on a daily basis.

SEBI paper moots flexible minimum shareholding norms

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

SEBI plans to raise MPO for firms nearing listing, MPS post listing; extend timelines for latter

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed to increase the flexibility of minimum public shareholding (MPS) and minimum public offer (MPO) for companies aspiring to get listed aimed at "simplifying fund-raising by issuers in India," as per a consultation paper.

SEBI proposed to raise the MPO for companies approaching listing, MPS post listing and extend the timelines to achieve the latter.

SEBI proposed to change threshold buckets for post-issue market capitalisation (m-cap) to ₹4,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore, ₹50,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore, ₹1 lakh crore to ₹5 lakh crore and above ₹5 lakh crore. SEBI has also tweaked MPS timeline.

"For issuers with a post-issue market cap above ₹50,000 crore but less than or equal to ₹1 lakh crore, it is proposed timeline for compliance with the MPS requirement of 25% may be extended from 3 years to 5 years from the date of listing," SEBI said.

This was proposed to be fixed at five years to achieve 15% shareholding and 10 years to achieve 25% post listing MPS.

India bats for import tariffs for 3 years on some steel products

Reuters

India has recommended a three-year import tariff of 11%-12% on some steel products to curb shipments from top producer China.

The levy, if imposed, will start at 12%. It will be eased to 11.5% in the second year and to 11% in the third year, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) said in a notification dated August 16.

"The Authority concludes that there is a recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports," the notification said, adding that this could cause serious injury to the domestic steel sector.

The DGTR also said due to 50% tariffs on steel imports into the U.S., coupled with similar steps by other countries, a bulk of steel volumes are lying with manufacturers across the world.

"Therefore, safeguard duty must address, not only the serious injury suffered by the domestic industry... but also the threat of serious injury likely to arise in the future."

23% of PM Jan Dhan accounts inoperative

As many as 23% of the total 56.04 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts are inoperative, said Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary. Out of 56.03 crore PMJDY accounts at the end of July 31, 2025, 13.04 crore such accounts are inoperative, he said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of inoperative Jan Dhan accounts of 2.75 crore, followed by Bihar at 1.39 crore and Madhya Pradesh at 1.07 crore, he added.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs

Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders as below:-

SE (PROC – II)/NIB-06/2025-26/BN-9016002518 (UBN- VPN2526WLOB01454)
Construction of 132 kV GSS Katikhandi (Chhabra) [Distt-Baran], and associated lines (25 KM D/C) including supply of all Equipment (Except Power Transformer & ACSR Conductor), materials, erection (including civil works) testing & commissioning.

SE (PROC – II)/NIB-06/2025-26/BN-9016002519 (UBN- VPN2526WLOB01455)
Construction of 132 KV GSS Adel (Distt. -Barmer) and associated lines (25 KM D/C) and 2 No. of 132 kV feeder bay at 132 KV GSS Mahloo including supply of all Equipment (Except Power Transformer & ACSR Conductor), materials, erection (including civil works) testing & commissioning.

The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.** Details of NIB are available on website **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn.**

Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in; energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in only.**

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Raj.Samwad/C/25/8301 RRVPN/TR-7074/2025

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Start Date: 23rd Aug 2025
Timing: 06.00 p.m to 09.00 p.m

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For Registration
Only Week-ends (Saturday & Sunday)
Start Date: 04th Oct 2025
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Green belt : Rs. 5,900/-
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Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for **Construction of Front ARCH at Main Entrance** at PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala. India.
Tel: No.- 0484-2757702 / 1
Email : **cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in; shriranga@petronetlng.in**

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Advertisement No. :- SKRAU/VC Search/2025/ Dated :- 13/08/2025

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE- CHANCELLOR

Applications in the prescribed format are invited by the Chairman, Search Committee, constituted under section 19 (3) of the Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner Act 1987 (as amended), for the Post of Vice Chancellor, the Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner. The duly filled application must be submitted both in hard copy by post, addressed to the Chairman, Vice-Chancellor Search Committee, c/o the Registrar, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, National Highway No.15, Sriganganagar Road, Beechwal-Bikaner-334006 (Rajasthan) and in soft copy by e-mail to reg@raubikaner.org. The last date and time for receipt of both versions (Hard & Soft Copy) of the Application is 06th September, 2025 till 05:00 PM. The detailed advertisement and application format can be downloaded from the Website **www.rajbhawan.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.raubikaner.org.**

CHAIRMAN
VC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Raj.Samwad/C/25/8299

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E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE Dated: 19.08.2025

Government College of Technology, Coimbatore invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed experienced financially sound eligible applicatants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender documents for the following :

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Brief Description of the Equipments	EMD (Rs.)
1.	5921/B4/2025/05/AI ROBOTICS LAB	Establishment of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory in 3 Government Engineering Colleges at Coimbatore, Salem and Bargur	3,95,700/-

Schedule : 1. Tender publishing date & Time : 18.08.2025 & 5.30pm. 2. Bid closing date & Time : 17.09.2025 & 5.00pm. The tender document along with detailed specification of the Equipments with schedule can be downloaded from the Tamil Nadu Government e-Tender website **www.tntenders.gov.in,** Interested vendors may visit the above website and upload your bids **through online only,** Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Tender Notice will be published in the above e-tender website. You may please visit the site regularly.

DIPR/ 4424 /TENDER/2025

The Principal,
Government College of Technology, Coimbatore - 641 013.

GAZA CITY

Senior Hamas official says group accepts new ceasefire proposal

AFP

Hamas has accepted a new ceasefire proposal for Gaza, Bassem Naima, a senior official from the group said on Monday. Mediators Egypt and Qatar, backed by the United States, have struggled to secure a lasting truce in the conflict, which has triggered a dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. AFP

QUETTA

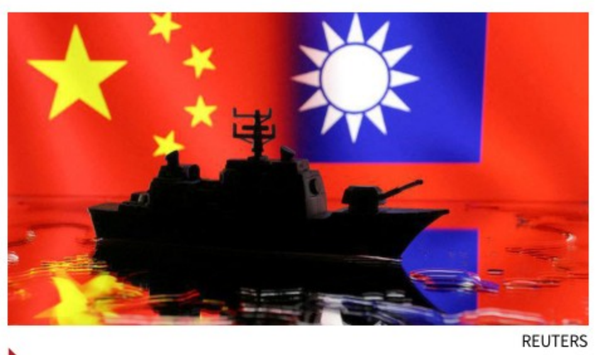
Pakistani lecturer arrested for bid to plot 'terror attack' in Balochistan

REUTERS

Security forces in Pakistan arrested a university lecturer for planning a foiled suicide attack at last week's Independence Day events in insurgency-hit Balochistan, officials said on Monday. The suspect is said to have links with the Majeed Brigade, part of the banned outfit Balochistan Liberation Army, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said. AP

BEIJING

Taiwan 'issue' is an internal matter, China says in response to Trump



REUTERS

"The Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair, and how to resolve the issue is a matter for the Chinese people," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday, in response to U.S. President Donald Trump saying Chinese President Xi Jinping told him he will not invade the island while Trump is in office. REUTERS

MOSCOW

Toll from explosion at Russian factory rises to 20, over 130 hurt

REUTERS

The death toll from an unexplained blast last week at a factory in Russia's Ryazan region has jumped to at least 20, with another 134 people injured, emergency services said on Monday. Pavel Malkov, governor of the Ryazan region, said last Friday that the incident had been triggered by a fire inside a workshop at the factory. REUTERS

Israel has a 'deliberate policy' of starvation in Gaza: Amnesty

The group accuses Israel of 'systematically destroying the health, well-being and social fabric of Palestinian life', a campaign which is 'part and parcel of Israel's ongoing genocide'; thousands of Palestinians flee Gaza city in fear of IDF's new offensive

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Raging sight: Palestinian children wait to receive meals at a refugee camp in Gaza Strip on Monday. AFP

Rights group Amnesty International on Monday accused Israel of enacting a "deliberate policy" of starvation in Gaza, as the UN and aid groups warn of famine in the Palestinian territory.

Israel, while heavily restricting aid allowed into the Gaza Strip, has repeatedly rejected claims of deliberate starvation in the 22-month-old war.

In a report citing testimonies of displaced Palestinians and medical staff who treated malnourished children, Amnesty said that "Israel is carrying out a deliberate campaign of starvation in the occupied Gaza Strip."

The group accused Israel of "systematically destroying the health, well-being and social fabric of Palestinian life".

"It is the intended outcome of plans and policies that Israel has designed and implemented, over the past 22 months, to deliberately inflict on Palestinians in Gaza conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction – which is part and parcel of Israel's ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza," Amnesty said.

The report is based on interviews conducted in recent weeks with 19 displaced Gazans sheltering in three makeshift camps as well two medical staff in two hospitals in Gaza City.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military and Foreign Ministry did not immediately comment on Amnesty's findings.

In a report issued last week, the Israeli Defence Ministry's COGAT, a body overseeing civil affairs in the Palestinian territories, rejected claims of widespread malnutrition in Gaza and disputed figures shared by the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

In April, Amnesty accused Israel of committing a "live-streamed genocide" against Palestinians by forcibly displacing Gazans and creating a humanitarian catastrophe in the besieged territory, claims that Israel dismissed at the time as "blatant lies".

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians have left their homes in eastern areas of Gaza City, now under constant Israeli bombardment, for points to the west and south in the shattered territory.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described Gaza City as Hamas' last big urban bastion. But, with Israel already holding 75% of Gaza, the military has warned that expanding the offensive could endanger hostages still alive and draw troops into protracted and deadly guerrilla warfare. An Israeli armoured incursion into Gaza City could displace hundreds of thousands of people.

Junta sets Dec. 28 for polls in civil war-torn Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Take control: Junta chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ousted the elected government in a 2021 coup. REUTERS

Myanmar's junta said on Monday that long-promised elections will start on December 28, despite a raging civil war that has put much of the country out of its control, and international monitors slating the poll as a charade.

Myanmar has been consumed by conflict since the military deposed the government of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, making unsubstantiated allegations of electoral fraud.

Swathes of the country are beyond military control – administered by a myriad of pro-democracy guerrillas and powerful ethnic armed organisations which have pledged to block polls in their enclaves.

Analysts say the election will likely see junta chief Min Aung Hlaing maintain his power over any new government – either as president, military leader or some new office where he will consolidate control.

The civil war has killed thousands, left more than half the nation in poverty, and more than 3.5 million people living displaced.

Polls 'rebranded'

The junta has touted elections as a way to end the conflict and offered cash rewards to opposition fighters willing to lay down their arms ahead of the vote. Ms. Suu Kyi remains jailed and many opposition lawmakers ousted by the coup are boycotting the polls, which a UN expert has branded a "fraud" designed to rebrand continuing military rule.

Myanmar's Union Election Commission said in a statement the first votes will be cast on December 28 and "dates for the subsequent phases will be announced later".

Conflict monitors predict the period will see an uptick in violence and unrest as the military seeks to expand the scope of the vote and opposition groups lash back.

Last month, the junta introduced new laws dictating prison sentences of up to 10 years for critics or protesters of the election.

The legislation also outlawed damaging ballot papers and polling stations, as well as the intimidation or harm of voters, candidates and election workers.

Iran warns war with Israel could resume at any time

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

A senior Iranian official warned on Monday that war with Israel could erupt at any moment, describing the current lull after June's 12-day conflict as only a temporary halt.

"We must be prepared at every moment for confrontation; right now, we are not even in a ceasefire (agreement); we are in a cessation of hostilities," said First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref.

The fighting in June saw Israel bombard Iranian nuclear and military sites, as well as residential areas, killing more than 1,000 people, including senior commanders and nuclear scientists.

Iran retaliated with missile and drone strikes that killed dozens in Israel.

The U.S. announced a halt in fighting on June 24, two days after it joined the war by bombing Iranian nuclear facilities. But there was no agreement formalising the ceasefire, only an undeclared pause in hostilities.

'Worst-case scenario'

On Sunday, Yahya Rahim Safavi, a military adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Iranian media the country was "preparing plans for the worst-case scenario".

"We are not in a ceasefire now, we are in a war phase, it could break down at any time, there is no protocol, no regulations, no agreement between us and the Israelis, between us and the Americans," he said in remarks carried by the *Shargh* daily.

"A ceasefire means ceasing attacks; that could change at any time," he added. Since then, Iranian officials have insisted the country is not seeking war but is ready for another confrontation.

Western powers accuse Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons through its atomic programme, a charge Tehran strongly denies.

Following the war, Israel and the U.S. repeatedly threatened to attack Iran again should Tehran relaunch its nuclear sites and resume its nuclear enrichment programme.

Swayed stance

Take the bait: French matador Sebastien Castella performs a pass on a fighting bull during the event 'La Feria de Beziers' in Beziers, southern France on Sunday. AFP

German FM says China 'increasingly aggressive'

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

Germany's Foreign Minister hit out on Monday at what he called China's repeated threats to "unilaterally change" borders in the Asia-Pacific region, calling Beijing "increasingly aggressive".

"China repeatedly threatens, more or less openly, to unilaterally change the status quo and shift borders in its favour," Johann Wadephul said in Japan.

"Any escalation in this sensitive hub of international trade would have serious consequences for global security and the world economy."

Bolivia heads to a presidential run-off vote as two decades of left-wing dominance ends

Associated Press
LA PAZ

Bolivia's presidential vote headed to an unprecedented run-off after elections on Sunday that ended more than two decades of left-wing dominance in the Andean nation but signalled voters' trepidation about a major lurch to the right.

A dark horse centrist, Sen. Rodrigo Paz, drew more votes than the right-wing front-runners, although not enough to secure an outright victory, early results showed.

Mr. Paz, a former mayor who has sought to soften the edges of the opposition's push for tough austerity to rescue Bolivia from a looming economic collapse, will face off against right-wing former President Jorge 'Tuto' Quiroga, who finished second. Bolivia holds the presidential runoff – its first since its 1982 return to democracy – on October 19.

"This economic model must change," Mr. Paz declared to crowds who cheered and chanted, "Renewal!"

Mr. Paz's campaign gained unexpected traction in recent weeks as he teamed up with Edman Lara, a social media savvy ex-police captain with evangelical backing whose supporters see him as a bold leader willing to stand up to corruption in the security forces.

With over 91% of the ballots counted on Sunday, Mr. Paz received 32.8% of the votes cast. Mr. Quiroga secured 26.4%. Candidates needed to surpass 50%, or 40% with a 10-point margin of victory, to avoid a run-off. Addressing fans and flanked by family, Mr. Quiroga congratulated Mr. Paz on his lead. "What happened is unprecedented," he said. "Bolivia told the world that we want to live in a free nation."

Face-off: Presidential hopefuls Rodrigo Paz (left) and Jorge Quiroga are set for a showdown on October 19. AP

Blow to 'Socialism'

The results delivered a stunning blow to Bolivia's hegemonic Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, party, which has governed the country almost uninterrupted since its founder, charismatic ex-President Evo Morales, rose to power as part of the "pink tide" of leftist leaders that swept into office across Latin America during the commodities boom of the early 2000s.

The official MAS candidate, Eduardo del Castillo, finished sixth with just 3.2% of the vote. A leftist candidate considered to be the party's best hope, 36-year-old Senate president Andrónico Rodríguez, captured 8% of the vote.

During his almost 14 years in power, Mr. Morales expanded the rights of the country's Indigenous majority and poured natural gas profits into social programmes.

But his increasingly high-handed attempts to prolong his presidency – along with allegations of sexual relations with underage girls – soured public opinion against him. Simmering discontent turned into a tidal wave of outrage as Bolivia's economy imploded under Mr. Morales' protégé-turned-rival, President Luis Arce.

Annual inflation rate has soared from 2% less than two years ago to 25% as of last month. A desperate shortage of U.S. dollars needed to pay for essential imports like wheat has crippled the economy.

WORDS OF COMFORT

It's not easy to sit out: Shardul backs spinner Kuldeep

GETTY IMAGES

Shardul Thakur reflected on the disappointment of Kuldeep Yadav, who did not get a chance to play in the Anderson-Tendulkar Test series. Kuldeep, since his debut in 2017, has played 13 Tests. "As a player, you go through a lot of emotions, and it's not easy to sit out, questioning yourself," Shardul told *Revsportz*.

HEALTH FIRST

Chetan backs Bumrah over playing only three Tests in England series

GETTY IMAGES

Jasprit Bumrah may have drawn criticism for playing only three Tests during the series against England to manage his workload, but Chetan Sharma has backed the bowler, saying players should go by the physios' advice as they are the 'better judges.' "If doctor asks to take antibiotics, then it should be consumed," he said.

ETERNAL DELIGHT

That feeling will stay with me forever: Bashir on Siraj's dismissal

GETTY IMAGES

Shoaib Bashir believes the joy he felt after dismissing Mohammed Siraj to seal the Lord's Test will stay with him "forever" and credited former teammate Moeen Ali for advising him to bowl the carrom ball. "That feeling will stay with me forever, at the home of cricket in front of a packed crowd," said Bashir to *The Sunday Times*.

BIG BACKING

Varun credits Surya, Gambhir for huge role in his comeback

REUTERS

Varun Chakaravarthy said T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Gautam Gambhir played a big role in his national comeback. Varun said the captain had told him he was keen on having him in the team while Gambhir had always given him confidence and told him "no matter who's going to ignore you, I will keep you in my plans."

Mixed doubles revamp — a glorified exhibition or hard-nosed competition?

The innovative format features 16 teams, and players have been allowed to enter either with their singles ranking or as wild cards

US OPEN

N. Sudarshan

Non-conformity is a quintessential US Open trait. From being the first to introduce a final-set tie-break way back in 1970 to allowing in-game coaching in 2022, the season's last tennis Major has defied tradition multiple times.

Tuesday, however, will see arguably the most radical and controversial of transformations, with a new mixed doubles format ready to be showcased.

It will feature only 16 teams – eight direct acceptances and eight wild cards – down from 32, and players have been allowed to enter only with their singles ranking.

The two-day affair is being played in the week preceding the Slam and will witness reduced sets (to four games, except in the final).

The who's who of singles tennis, from Carlos Alcaraz to Jannik Sinner to Iga Swiatek to Naomi Osaka, will compete without having to worry about doubles burning their singles ambitions.

Dream pair: Fans would be delighted to see Raducanu and Alcaraz share court space! GETTY IMAGES

Creating a buzz

For the United States Tennis Association (USTA), it is about creating a buzz around a format that doesn't exist outside the Slams and quadrennial extravaganzas like the Olympics. It can help schedule matches on the biggest show-courts such as the Arthur Ashe Stadium, sell tickets, beam the action on primetime television and collect more in sponsorships.

But the change has left the doubles stars disappointed. "As a doubles athlete, my heart is bleeding," said Wimbledon champion Sam Verbeek, and one can see why.

Already competing for a fraction of the prize money, doubles specialists have had the door shut on their faces. None among the ATP doubles top-10 is in the draw. Nine of them had taken part in the 2025 Wimbledon mixed doubles competition.

The women fare better, with three of the WTA doubles top-10 set to compete. But the current World No. 1 is United States' Taylor Townsend and to not have her would have been a public relations disaster.

Thus, the nearly threefold increase in purse from $802,000 in 2024 to $2,360,000 will mostly be pocketed by the already highly paid singles stars.

"Doubles already plays second fiddle to singles in terms of visibility, scheduling, prize money. This move just reinforces that hierarchy," former World No. 1 Rohan Bopanna told *The Hindu*. "A Grand Slam isn't just about singles. It's about the entire ecosystem. When you start trimming one part, especially something that's been a tradition, it chips away at the completeness of the event."

Unilateral decision

What has also rankled the players is the USTA's seemingly unilateral decision-making.

"I'm honoured that they asked me to play, but how they went about it wasn't really great," quipped Jessica Pegula, World No. 4 in singles and a WTA Player Council member, in Cincinnati recently.

"We were like, 'you guys (US Open) just went rogue and changed the format and didn't tell anybody'," the American added.

The competition is also running concurrently with an ATP 250 in Winston-Salem (USA) and it is no-brainer as to who will enjoy the most coverage.

At a time when seven of nine ATP Masters 1000s – except Monte Carlo and Paris – have ballooned into 12-day snooze-fests, elbowing out smaller tournaments, US Open's move doesn't inspire confidence.

Can a global sport further allow the shrinking of its footprint?

Bottom half's top draw: Sinner has teamed up with Siniakova, a player with an impressive doubles resume. GETTY IMAGES

A quick glance at the rules and the pairs

Sports Bureau

The first and second rounds will be played on Tuesday (August 19), and the semifinals and final on Wednesday (August 20).

Matches until the semifinals will be best-of-three sets but with each set to four games instead of the traditional six.

They will feature no-ad scoring, tiebreakers at four-all and a 10-point match tiebreaker in place of a full third set.

The final will be a best-of-three set affair but to six games, with tiebreakers at six-all and a 10-point match tiebreaker in place of a full third set.

The winning team will get $1 million, a five-fold increase from $200,000 in 2024.

The match-ups:

Top half

Jessica Pegula & Jack Draper vs. Emma Raducanu & Carlos Alcaraz.

Olga Danilovic & Novak Djokovic vs. Mirra Andreeva & Daniil Medvedev.

Iga Swiatek & Casper Ruud vs. Madison Keys & Frances Tiafoe.

Naomi Osaka & Gael Monfils vs. Caty McNally & Lorenzo Musetti.

Bottom half

Katerina Siniakova & Jannik Sinner vs. Belinda Bencic & Alexander Zverev

Taylor Townsend & Ben Shelton vs. Amanda Anisimova & Holger Rune.

Venus Williams & Reilly Opelka vs. Karolina Muchova & Andrey Rublev.

Sara Errani & Andrea Vavassori vs. Elena Rybakina & Taylor Fritz.

Top Indians for Archery Premier League in October

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Ace archers such as Olympians Deepika Kumari and B. Dhiraj in recurve and V. Jyothi Surekha and Abhishek Verma in compound are among the Indian archers named for the inaugural Archery Premier League (APL), scheduled to be held at the Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi in October.

The Archery Association of India (AAI) picked the archers on the basis of top-20 world rankings and a recently-held selection trials. The APL, to be organised under lights, will also witness the participation of elite international archers.

Deepika.
FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Selected Indian archers:
Recurve: Men: B. Dhiraj (World Ranking 14), Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das, Neeraj Chauhan, Rahul, Rohit Kumar, Mrinal Chauhan, Sachin Gupta and Krish Kumar.
Women: Deepika Kumari (W.R. 3), Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur, Gatha Khadake, Sharvari Shende, Basanti Mahato, Kumkum Mohod, Tisha Punia and Anshika Kumari.
Compound: Men: Rishabh Yadav (W.R. 9), Abhishek Verma (W.R. 10), Prathamesh Fuge (W.R. 11), Priyansh (W.R. 16), Aman Saini, Ojas Deotale, Sahil Jadhav, Chittibomma Jignas and Pulkit Kajla.
Women: V. Jyothi Surekha (W.R. 3), Parneet Kaur (W.R. 17), Prithika Pradeep, Taniparthi Chikitha, Avneet Kaur, Madala Surya Hamsini, Swati Dudhwal, Madhura Dhamangaonkar and Pranjal Salve.

It's Ajay vs. Jaslal in the BFI polls

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Seeking a third consecutive term, Ajay Singh will have a straight fight with Olympian boxer Jaslal Pradhan for the president's post in the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) elections, scheduled on Aug 21.

As per the final list of contesting candidates published on Monday, Ajay Singh, representing the Uttarakhand association, will take on 1984 Olympian Pradhan of the Sikkim unit.

Pramod Kumar, Digvijay Singh and Neeraj Jain will contest for the secretary-general's post, while Pon Baskaran, R. Gopu and Anil Bohidar are in fray for the treasurer's post.

No stay on poll

Recording submissions in a BFI election-related case on Monday, the Delhi High Court did not stay the polls while posting the matter for hearing on September 23.

The election results will be subject to the final outcome of the case.

After the initial notification for elections got stuck due to legal battles, the international governing body, World Boxing, formed an interim committee to run the BFI and conduct its polls.

Undemocratic

The much-delayed BFI elections have been mired in controversy as former Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur's name, nominated from Himachal Pradesh and projected as a potential candidate for the top post, was rejected twice from the electoral college amid different allegations, including that the newly-adopted BFI constitution during the interim committee's tenure was 'undemocratic.'

After the initial notification for elections got stuck due to legal battles, the international governing body, World Boxing, formed an interim committee to run the BFI and conduct its polls.

Kapil and Girish bag gold medals in Asian meet

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Kapil Bainsla won the air pistol gold in the junior men's event by beating Ilkhombek Obidjonov of Uzbekistan by 0.6 point in the 16th Asian shooting championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

Qualification top scorer, Jonathan Antony (582) won the bronze.

In men's air pistol, Amit Sharma and Varun Tomar shot high scores of 588 and 584, but they could not fight for medals as they were in the RPO section.

In the regular event, Anmol Jain alone made the final with a score of 580 and eventually placed sixth.

India did win the team silver in both the men's and junior events behind China and Korea respectively. There was some cheer for India in the youth section, with Girish Gupta and Dev Pratap winning the gold and silver respectively, and fetching a team silver as well behind Iran.

Top guns: Kapil and Girish were on target in the Asian shooting championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

10m air pistol: Men: 1. Hu Kai (Chn) 241.6 (585); 2. Hong Suhyeon (Kor) 239.0 (580); 3. Amir Joharikhou (Iri) 216.8 (582); 6. Anmol Jain 155.1 (580); 13. Aditya Malra 579; 21. Saurabh Chaudhary 576; RPO: Amit Sharma 588; Varun Tomar 584.
Team: 1. China 1744; 2. India 1735; 3. Iran 1733.
Juniors: 1. Kapil Bainsla 243.0 (579); 2. Ilkhombek Obidjonov (Uzb) 242.4 (575); 3. Jonathan Antony 220.7 (582); 6. Mukesh Nelavalli 157.8 (582); RPO: Chirag Sharma 577; Shiva Narwal 575; 19. Vijay Tomar 562.
Team: 1. Korea 1734; 2. India 1723; 3. Kazakhstan 1712.
Youth: 1. Girish Gupta 241.3 (577); 2. Dev Pratap 238.6 (567), 3. Mohammad Reza Ahmadi (Iri) 217.0 (577); 6. Pankaj 156.6 (572).
Team: 1. Iran 1721; 2. India 1716; 3. Korea 1699.

Kishan and Akash to miss Duleep quarterfinal

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

India pacer Akash Deep and wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan, the East Zone captain, will miss the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal match against North Zone as both the players are recovering from their injuries.

The season-opening Duleep Trophy matches are scheduled to be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence grounds in Bengaluru from August 28, but Akash is yet to recover fully from a back injury that forced him to miss a Test on the recent tour of England.

The 28-year-old has been replaced by Bihar's Mukhtar Hussain in the squad. Kishan has been replaced by Odisha's Aashirwad Swain, even as Kumar Kushagra is likely to be the first-choice 'keeper.

Meanwhile, Bengal batter Abhimanyu Easwaran will lead in Kishan's absence.

INBRIEF

Piastri to get his grandstand for 2026 Australian GP

Formula One leader Oscar Piastri will have a grandstand named after him at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix next year.

Sumit in 57kg freestyle final at the u-20 World wrestling

Sumit Malik produced a series of excellent performances to book a berth in the men's 57kg freestyle final at the World under-20 wrestling championships in Samokov, Bulgaria, on Monday. Sumit beat Puerto Rico's Ethan Rivera 7-2, Japan's Rin Sakamoto 10-10 (via criteria), Azerbaijan's Vasif Baghirov 9-2 and Moldova's Ion Bulgaru 11-3 to reach the title clash, where he will meet European under-20 bronze medallist Magomed Ozdamirov.

Facile win for Roots FC against Pink Panthers FC

Roots FC defeated Pink Panthers FC 3-0 in the KSFA Karnataka Women's League football tournament in Bengaluru.

The results: Misaka United FC 1 (Esther Ting 80) drew with Pass FC 1 (Jyoti 20); Roots FC 3 (Babita Devi 35, Sujata Roy 38, 54) bt Pink Panthers FC 0.

Balaji-Rithvik pair loses in Sumter Challenger final

Second seeds Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Bollipalli were beaten 6-4, 7-6(3) by the fourth seeds Ryan Seggerman and Patrik Trhac in the doubles final of the $200,000 Challenger tennis in Sumter.

Top athletes to compete in National inter-State meet

With the National inter-State athletics meet at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai from August 20 to 24 being the final selection trials for next month's World championships (September 13 to 21), the majority of athletes will be eager to make the cut. Around 700 athletes representing 35 teams from across the country will be taking part.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 10 a.m.

Maharaja T20 Trophy: Star Sports 2 & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 7 p.m.

US Open: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Sarfaraz's ton puts Mumbai in a commanding position

The 27-year-old batter scores an aggressive 138, studded with 10 fours and six maximums, as the visitor reaches 367 for five against TNCA XI at the end of the opening day

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Fortune favours the brave: Sarfaraz made full use of an early reprieve. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Sarfaraz Khan kick-started the new domestic season in authoritative fashion, smashing a brilliant century (138 retd. hurt, 114b, 10x4, 6x6) to power Mumbai to a commanding 367 for five against TNCA XI on the opening day of the first round of the All India Buchi Babu tournament match at the Gojan College ground here on Monday.

Sarfaraz was at his aggressive best, smashing an inexperienced bowling attack to all corners of the field. Sarfaraz had made his Test debut last year and was dropped from the Indian team for the recently concluded Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England. He will need a good domestic season to fight his way back into national reckoning.

The 27-year-old, who has recently shed more than 10kgs in a bid to become fitter, walked in with Mumbai in a spot of bother at 98 for three and took the game away from TNCA XI.

Sarfaraz got an early reprieve when he was dropped on 15 by M. Shahrukh Khan at first slip off left-arm spinner M. Siddharth and made the home team rue the missed chance. He was severe on Siddharth, using the sweep shot to good effect to find the boundaries, including two sixes.

Once he crossed his half-century with a flick off pacer Prem Kumar, Sarfaraz stepped on the accelerator. He got to his century, ramping pacer Lokesh Raj over slips for a boundary.

The batter also ran hard between the wickets with seven braces and two threes.

Once he crossed the landmark, Sarfaraz cut loose, lofting Lokesh down the ground for consecutive sixes even while battling cramps before walking off.

BUCHI BABU SCORES, DAY ONE

Rohit Rajawat (MPCA, 5/49), Qamran Iqbal (J&K, 138), Musaif Aijaz (J&K, 114).

Nitya Pandya (Baroda, 102), Himanshu Rana (Haryana, 100), Yashvardhan Dalal (Haryana, 120).

Group A: At Gojan-A: TNCA President's XI 256/9 in 65.3 overs (Pradosh Ranjan Paul 73, G. Ajitesh 71 batting, Abhishek Kumar 4/75) vs Himachal Pradesh. **Toss:** HP.

At Guru Nanak College: Chhattisgarh 252 in 89.3 overs (Avnish Singh Dhaliwal 52, Sanjeet Desai 93, Shubham Agrawal 41) vs Maharashtra. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh.

Group B: At MRF-Pachaiyappa's College: Jammu & Kashmir 393/5 in 90 overs (Qamran Iqbal 138, Musaif Aijaz 114) vs Indian Railways. **Toss:** Railways.

At CPT-IP (Turf): Baroda 381/6 in 90 overs (Nitya Pandya 102, Sukirt Pandey 85, Parth Kohli 48, Abhimanyusingh Rajput 51) vs Odisha. **Toss:** Baroda.

Group C: At Gojan-B: Mumbai 367/5 in 85 overs (Suved Parkar 72, Sarfaraz Khan 138 retd hurt, Aakash Parkar 67 batting) vs TNCA XI. **Toss:** Mumbai.

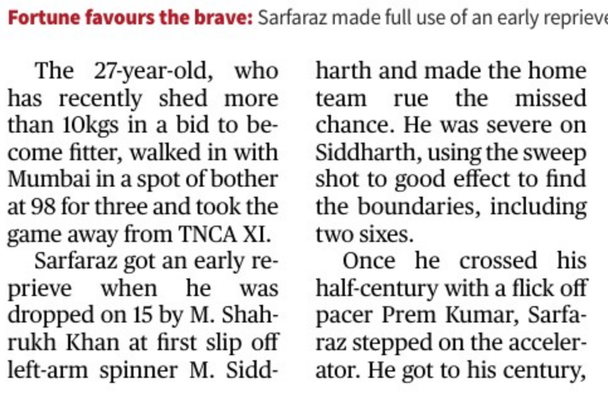
At A.M. Jain College: Haryana 415/9 in 90 overs (Himanshu Rana 100, Nishant Sindhu 74, Yashvardhan Dalal 120, Kanishk Chouhan 47, Ajay Singh 53) vs Bengal. **Toss:** Bengal.

Group D: At SRMC (Turf): Jharkhand 176 in 45.1 overs (Kumar Kushagra 56, Rohit Rajawat 5/49) vs Madhya Pradesh 60/0 in 18 overs. **Toss:** MP.

At TI-Murugappa: Punjab 187/4 in 64 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 69, Uday Pratap Saharan 63 batting) vs Hyderabad. **Toss:** Hyderabad.

Speedster Umran eyes a comeback, aims to don the India jersey again

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI



Pragmatic: Umran wants to stay in the present and perform consistently. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

India and Jammu & Kashmir pacer Umran Malik is optimistic about making his much-anticipated return to competitive cricket in the Buchi Babu tournament which began here on Monday.

The 25-year-old, known for his fiery pace and ability to clock more than 150kph, has been out of action since IPL 2024. He has endured a difficult phase with a series of setbacks.

Umran first suffered a hamstring injury, followed by dengue, and later underwent hip surgery. Since then, he has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru.

Speaking ahead of his potential return in his side's next game against Baroda, Umran expressed confidence about getting match-fit. "Firstly, it feels great to be back on the field. The more matches I play, the better it is, especially in terms of getting my body used to the workload again," said the pacer.

Reflecting on his rehabilitation, he added, "I was undergoing rehab at the NCA. I kept things simple to recover quickly. I want to thank Nishant *bhai*, Tulsi sir, and Suresh sir for their guidance and support during that time. I'm also grateful to V.V.S. Laxman sir and the BCCI for providing the best facilities at the NCA to aid my recovery."

He also acknowledged the support from his coaches, "JKCA has supported me immensely. I've been in constant touch with Mithun Manhas, who's been guiding me. Our head coach, Ajay Sharma, and the JKCA support staff have been very encouraging. A couple of weeks ago, I was in Chennai for a camp with Abhishek Nayar, and I've been working on a few variations with him as well."

With the domestic season round the corner, Umran is focused on building momentum. "My immediate goal is to perform well in this tournament and then play in the Ranji Trophy. I hope to take wickets and perform consistently. I want to play for India again," said the Kolkata Knight Riders pacer.

DD launches new weekly cricket show

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former India cricketers Anil Kumble, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sanjay Bangar and Parthiv Patel will appear as guests on the show

Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster, launched a new weekly cricket programme in collaboration with CricViz, titled 'The Great Indian Cricket Show', in the national capital on Monday. The show, which will be telecast on Doordarshan's sports channel (DD Sports) every Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m., aims to celebrate India's cricketing heritage with the help of enlightening data and effective storytelling.

Former India cricketers Anil Kumble, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sanjay Bangar and Parthiv Patel will appear as guests on the show, and share insights and anecdotes on some of India's best cricketing moments.

Attending the launch event here on Monday were ex-cricketers Madan Lal, Chetan Sharma, Murali Kartik and Aakash Chopra.

Navneet Kumar Sehgal (chairman, Prasar Bharati), Gaurav Dwivedi (CEO, Prasar Bharathi) and Michael Kivido (Managing Director, CricViz) were present for the launch.

Lots of stories

"What the show promises to bring out is lots of stories with the help of stats. Cold numbers alone tell you nothing.

"With CricViz providing stats and a lot of information, good storytelling can possibly help present a different picture," said Kartik.

Warriors beat Blasters in a rain-hit match

In form: Shikhar produced a fine spell. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MAHARAJA TROPHY

C.K. Muralidharan
MYSURU

Shikhar Shetty's three for five and Yashovardhan Parantap's 39 helped defending champion Mysore Warriors register a 39-run win over runner-up Bengaluru Blasters in the rain-hit Maharaja Trophy match on Monday.

Put in to bat, in a match reduced to 16 overs per side due to rain, Warriors posted 136 for seven in 16 overs. Yashovardhan added 43 valuable runs for the sixth wicket with Sumit Kumar.

In reply, Blasters were restricted to 97 for nine in 16 overs as the side could not recover after being 29 for six at one stage.

Southpaw Madhav P. Bajaj top-scored for Blasters with 34. Both teams have secured 6 points from six matches.

The scores:

Mysore Warriors 136/7 in 16 overs (Yashovardhan Parantap 39, C.S. Vidyadhar Patil 2/32, Mohsin Khan 2/10) bt Bengaluru Blasters 97/9 in 16 overs (Madhav P. Bajaj 34, Shikhar Shetty 3/5, K. Gowtham 2/11). **Toss:** Blasters; **PoM:** Shikar Shetty.

On Sunday: Mysore Warriors 167/7 in 20 overs (S.U. Karthik 42, K.S. Lankesh 46, M.B. Darshan 3/37) vs Shivamogga Lions. *Match abandoned due to rain (No result).*

Dharwadkar notches up a big ton

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Madhava Dharwadkar (171) starred for Dharwad against Raichur in the KSCA S.A. Srinivasan Memorial under-23 tournament.

The scores: Dharwad Zone 357 in 73.1 overs (Nagarjun Patil 52, Madhava Dharwadkar 171, Pralhad Naik 39, Rajendra Danganavar 35, N. Rohan 3/39, Praveen Kotyal 4/28) and 119/2 in 18 overs (Rajendra Danganavar 50 n.o., Aditya Hiremath 31 n.o.) drew with Raichur Zone 308 in 88.2 overs (Thippa Reddy 48, Wardhan Khuba 85, Aniketh Reddy 91, Punit Basava 3/66). Combined City XI 313/5 in 90 overs (Ashwin Santosh 108, U. Karan 71, P. Dhruv 39 n.o., Samit Dravid 49 n.o.) drew with President's XI 216/3 in 64 overs (E.J. Jasper 87 n.o., Aarav Mahesh 64, Arun Bharadwaj 46 n.o.). Tumkur Zone 296 in 79.5 overs (M.A. Adarsh 32, T. Chiranjeevi 154, Raiyan Malik 46, Rajashekar Swamy 3/56, Surendra Rathore 4/61) drew with Mysore Zone 311/4 in 66 overs (Likith Gowda 66, Yashwanth Patel 62, Abhay Rangan 111 n.o., B.C. Rohan 35). Bangalore Zone 149 in 41.2 overs (Rahul Prasanna 37, R.R. Rohan 4/6) and 2 for no loss in 2 overs drew with Mangalore Zone 148 in 36.2 overs (Rushi Shetty 42, Mohsin Khan 6/42).

Kingston wins first division of Independence Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer K. Satheesh's ward Kingston, ridden by Abhay Singh, won the Independence Cup (Div. I), the main event of Monday's (Aug. 18) races. The winner is owned by M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettniad Charitable Trust.

1. RED RUM PLATE (1,400M): CERTANITY (Yash Narredu) 1, Tootsie Darling (Ashad Asbar) 2, Lake Michigan (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Gusto's Baby (Afroz K) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 6-1/4. 1m, 28.53s. ₹14 (w), 10, 10 and 17 (p). SHP. 29, THP: 48, SHW: 13 and 16, FP: 40, Q: 37, Tanala: 180. Favourite: Certanity. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

2. DEVARAKONDA CUP (DIV. II) (1,100M): HER LADYSHIP (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Star Medal (Abhay Singh) 2, Zuza (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Bold Beauty (P.Sai K) 4. 2, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 9.56s. ₹103 (w), 16, 21 and 10 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 75, SHW: 15 and 36, FP: 3,734, Q: 719, Tanala: 5,680. Favourite: Zuza. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. II) (1,200M): SHE CAN (Shamaz Shareef) 1, Warwick (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Sangreal (Yash Narredu) 3 and Blissful (Nakhat) 4. 1-1/2, Neck and 1/2. 1m, 15.31s. ₹83 (w), 27, 13 and 11 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 47, SHW: 27 and 17, FP: 336, Q: 140, Tanala: 851. Favourite: Warwick. Owners: M/s. Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Soma Raju Adipudi, Sureshbabu Daggubati & Venkatesh Daggubati. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. FAIR HAVEN PLATE (1,400M): BRILLIANT LAD (Yash Narredu) 1, Walking Thunder (Ashad Asbar) 2, Star Forever (P. Sai K) 3 and Shah Of Iran (B. Nikhil) 4. Not run: Emperors Charm. 3/4, 2 and 6-3/4. 1m, 28.36s. ₹16 (w), 11, 10 and 12 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 19, SHW: 10 and 12, FP: 23, Q: 14, Tanala: 31. Favourite: Brilliant Lad. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5. DEVARAKONDA CUP (DIV. I) (1,100M): ONLY THE BRAVE (Ajay Kumar) 1, Dontblockmyway (Akshay K) 2, Double Bubble (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Mexican Wave (R.S. Jodha) 4. 1-1/2, Neck and 1. 1m, 9.04s. ₹75 (w), 23, 10 and 17 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 51, SHW: 43 and 18, FP: 238, Q: 122, Tanala: 699. Favourite: Dontblockmyway. Owners: Mr. Chukkala Ashok & Mr. Syed Shah Faisal Hassan. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

6. ASCOT PLATE (1,200M): D MINCHU (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Calista Girl (Gaurav) 2, Calistoga (Akshay K) 3 and Ragnarok (Santosh Raj) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and Head. 1m, 14.15s. ₹106 (w), 18, 28 and 19 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 46, SHW: 39 and 48, FP: 2,750, Q: 557, Tanala: 24,980. Favourite: Espionage. Owner: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

7. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. I) (1,200M): KINGSTON (Abhay Singh) 1, Romantic Grey (Afroz K) 2, N R I Dheera (Varun) 3 and Mix The Magic (Mukesh K) 4. 3/4, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 15.81s. ₹68 (w), 30, 14 and 16 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 62, SHW: 22 and 12, FP: 368, Q: 194, Tanala: 1,670. Favourite: Shadow Baby. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

8. KARIMNAGAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): GLIMMER OF HOPE (Kuldeep Singh Jr.) 1, Lego (Ashad Asbar) 2, Hoping Star (Mohit) 3 and Lights On (R.S. Jodha) 4. Head, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 16.79s. ₹606 (w), 51, 11 and 24 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 56, SHW: 194 and 13, FP: 3,703, Q: 1,082, Tanala: 85, 985. Favourite: Shooting Star. Owner: Mr. Leeladhar Sharma. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: 6,35,354 (c/o) & 30%: 19,449 (14 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 61,980 (1 tkt), (ii) 96,177 (c/o).

Treble: (i) 1,896 (17 tkts), 6,283 (5 tkts.), (iii) 37,152 (2 tkts.).

Plucky Espanyol rallies to beat Atletico Madrid

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
BARCELONA

Fine margin: Oblak's dive proved inadequate as Espanyol came from behind to seal the win. REUTERS

Atletico Madrid started with a 2-1 defeat at Espanyol in LaLiga on Sunday as the hosts overturned Julian Alvarez's opener with late goals from substitutes Miguel Rubio and Pere Milla.

Alvarez showed his quality in the 37th minute, curling a superb free-kick into the top corner to give Atletico the lead after Espanyol's Leandro Cabrera had pushed Conor Gallagher.

The hosts levelled in the 73rd when a long set-piece dropped into the box behind the defence, allowing Rubio to race onto the ball and slide it past goalkeeper Jan Oblak.

Six minutes from time, Milla scored a spectacular winner, meeting a cross with a diving header that arched over Oblak and nestled inside the far post to complete the turnaround.

Earlier, Nico Williams led Athletic Bilbao to a 3-2 win over Sevilla.

In the Premier League, Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believed Arsenal's winning goal in the teams' match at Old Trafford on Sunday should have been disallowed for a "clear" foul in the build-up.

United goalkeeper Altay Bayindir was put off by Arsenal defender William Saliba as an inswinging corner was delivered by Declan Rice in the 13th minute.

As Saliba backed into Bayindir, the custodian flapped at the ball and only managed to knock it across the line toward Riccardo Calafiori, who nodded in from close range.

That ultimately secured a 1-0 win for Arsenal, and Amorim was disappointed the goal was allowed to stand.

The results:

LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 3 (N. Williams 36-pen, Sannadi 43, Navarro 81) bt Sevilla 2 (Lukebakio 60, Agoume 72). Espanyol 2 (Rubio 73, Milla 84) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Alvarez 37).

ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)

ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಭವನ, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಂ 16ಡಿ, ಮಿಲ್ಲರ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಬೆಡ್ ಏರಿಯಾ, ವಸಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು– 560052, ದೂ.080–22374832, 22374834
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: md.dbcdc2@karnataka.gov.in, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : www.dbcdc.karnataka.gov.in

No.DBCDC/2025-26/SE0003 **Date:19.08.2025**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

Implementation of Comprehensive Recovery Framework, AI-Powered Mobile Application for and Integrated System for Ganga Kalyana Yojana for D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation ಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸವನ್ನು ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ದೂ. **080–22374832, 22374834.**

1) ಇ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **03.09.2025**ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ **3:30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **04.09.2025**ರ ಸಂಜೆ **4:00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**10.09.2025**ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11:30**ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಡಿ.ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/2361/Zen/2025-26

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/AEE-1/Tender-15/2025-26 Date: 18.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Drilling of Borewells and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 516, 519, 566, 567, 568, 570, 571 and 594/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **18.08.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **02.09.2025.** The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer-1
KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/2365/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: DGM-1/(BSWML)/PR/183/25-26 **Date: 18-08-2025**

CORRIGENDUM- I

Sub : Updation of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.

Ref : This Office Tender Notification No. DGM-1/BSWML/ TEND/ 08/2025-26, Dated: 30.07.2025.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to technical reason. The Change in the Calendar of Events is as shown in below table.

Time schedule /calendar of events:

Sl. No.		As per tender notification	Updated dates please read as
1	Last Date of Receipt of Tender	On 30.08.2025 upto16:00 hrs.	**On 15.09.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.**
2	Opening of Technical Bid	On 01.09.2025 after10:30 hrs.	**On 16.09.2025 after 16:30 hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/2369/ AAA/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

TIPTUR SUB DIVISION (TERRITORIAL) DIVISION
Vidya Nagar, Opp Kalpataru College B.H. Road, TIPTUR - 572 201 Email: acftipaturu@gmail.com

Letter No: ACF/TSD/ RE-E-TENDER/CR-17/2025-26 **DATE: 12-08-2025**

RE-E-Tender Notification

RE E-Tender is invited by the Forest Department, Tiptur Sub-Division, Tumkur Territorial Division pertaining to different ranges under KFDF, DDF, AOA, CAMPA Scheme for the year 2025-26. The Bidder needs to be Registered as Forest Contractor during 2025-26 for Forestry works can participate for the following works.

Total No of Works	**14**
Highest Value of the Work	**Rs 37,67,050/-**
Value of the EMD	**Rs 94,176/-**
Lowest Value of the Work	**Rs Rs 2,59,875/-**
Value of the EMD	**Rs 6,497/-**

Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : **22-08-2025 at 3:00 PM**
Technical Bid Opening Date : **25-08-2025 at 3:00 PM**
Price Bid Opening Date : **26-08-2025 at 3:15 PM**

For more information about this tender may contact our office at office timings and more details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
DIPR/TUM/RO-107/25-26/Oysters Tiptur Sub Division, Tiptur

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANAND Donald Joseph Lobo, S/o John S Lobo, R/at No.19, Brunton Road Cross, Richmond Town, Museum Road, Bengaluru-560025 have changed my name to Anand Lobo vide affidavit dt: 18.08.2025 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru

I, M N Nethravathi Alias Nethravathi M N D/O Nagaraju Residing At Bagepalli Thalluku, Mittemari, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-561207, Have Changed My Name To Roshita For All Future Purposes

I, Mukesha Kini M A Alias Mukesh Kini M A S/O Anil Kini M V Residing At No 9 Asha Nilaya, Ramaiah Reddy Colony Sector B, Basavanagar, Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka-560037, Have Changed My Name To Mukesh Kini M A For All Future Purposes

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
Traffic Department
No.1 Rajaji Salai, Chennai - 1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO. C6/398/2025/T dt.19.08.2025

Notice for e-Tender Cum e-Auction for allotment of Covered Space with RCC Roof 53sqm, with partition, at Western side of Ground floor in III storey building near Gate No.5, in Area-II inside the custom bound area for the purpose of Duty Free Shop for a period of 5 years on annual licence basis in as is where is condition without renewal option, under two cover system from 19.08.2025 to 08.09.2025.

For further details visit Ch.P.A. website www.chennaiport.gov.in and www.eprocure.gov.in

TRAFFIC MANAGER

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SIDDAPPA MARUTI MAVINAHUNDI S/o Maruti R/o Jodatti Kabbur Belagavi Karnataka – 591222 changed my name to SIDDHARTH MARUTI PATIL.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

My clients S.Chinnapounnu and Five others are Filed the M.A.C.O.P. claim Case against for K.Sathyavelu, S/o.Kadiravelu, residing at Ward No:09, Near Petrol bunk, chandapura Main Road, Anekal, Anekal(TK), Bengloar, Karnataka-562106 in M.A.C.O.P. NO:800/2024 before the Special Sub Court (to deal with M.A.C.O.P. case only) Dindigul for to pay the compensation for late. Saparimalai. You have arrayed as proposed party/legal representative in the above M.A.C.O.P. case. Take notice that the court has ordered you to appear on 22.08.2025 at 10.30 a.m. If you fail to appear on 22.08.2025 the court will pass a suitable order against you. This is for your information.

P.NAGARAJAN M.A., B.L.,
SEMPATTI-624707
CELL: 95006 78170

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/25-26/36626-30 Date:18.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode only)

Establishment of transformer repair center at the following locations:
1) **PC-1464:-** Kalagi, 2) **PC-1465:-** Gurumittkal, 3) **PC-1466:-** Shakti Nagar, 4) **PC-1467:-** Munirabad, 5) **PC-1468:-** Kartagi, 6) **PC-1469:-** Kampli, 7) **PC-1470:-** Kurugudu, 8) **PC-1409** call-2 Yadrami, 9) **PC-1420** call-2 Kotturu.
Tender Amount: **Rs. 114.95 Lakhs** per each tender.
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after 20.08.2025 Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91 – 8046010000/8068948777/ 9240214000/ 9240214001or e-mail address:support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/Kalaburagi/402/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement),
GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560006.

No.EE/HBL/TEND/04/2025-26 **Date: 18.08.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFIATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division invites tenders for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Reserved for OTHERS

Sl. No.	Name of Work
	Comprehensive Development and improvements of roads, drains, Footpath & Construction of C.C Roads etc., in following wards of Hebbal Division.
1	In Naidu Layout & Surrounding areas in ward No. 61, Radhakrishna Temple. **Est. Cost: Rs. 80 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,60,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 60000/- through BG/FDR).
2	From whispering meadows apartment to 1st cross of HIG Colony in Dollars colony, RMV 2nd stage in Ward.No.61 Radhakrishna Temple. **Est. Cost: Rs. 50 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,00,000/-.**
3	In RMS Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward in No.62 Sanjayanagara. **Est. Cost: Rs. 70 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,40,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 40,000/- through BG/FDR).
4	In KEB Layout GMR Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 62 Sanjaynagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 90 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,80,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 80,000/- through BG/FDR).
5	Tend Road and Shivashankara Block connecting roads and Surrounding areas including laying of CC roads and Drains in ward No 63 Hebbal. **Est. Cost: Rs. 80 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,60,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 60,000/- through BG/FDR).
6	In cross roads and main roads SSA and 3rd Main Road and Surrounding areas in Ward No 63 Hebbal. **Est. Cost: Rs. 80 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,60,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 60,000/- through BG/FDR).
7	In Prabhakar Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 64 V. Nagenahalli. **Est. Cost: Rs. 60 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,20,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 20,000/- through BG/FDR).
8	In Vishveshwaraiah Layout and Surrounding Areas in ward No 64 V Nagenahalli. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,90,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 90,000/- through BG/FDR.
9	In Bhuvaneshwari Nagar and Surrounding areas in ward No 65 Manorayanapalya. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,90,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 90,000/- through BG/FDR).
10	At 1st 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th Cross roads 1st Block RT Nagar and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 66 Chamundinagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 90 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,80,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 80,000/- through BG/FDR).
11	At 1st, 2nd, 3rd P and T Colony and Manjunatha Layout and Surrounding areas in ward No 66, Chamundinagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 90 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,80,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 80,000/- through BG/FDR).
12	In HMT Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 67, Ganganagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 1,90,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment & balance Rs. 90,000/- through BG/FDR).
13	In Nrupathunga Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 67, Ganganagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 50,000/-.**
14	In Guddappa Block and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 67, Ganganagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 50,000/-.**
	Reserved for SC
15	6th Cross road from Sandipani Park to 80 Feet Road Via Vatal Nagaraj House and Surrounding areas in Ward in No.61, Radhakrishna Temple. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 95,000/-.**
16	Near Masjid Ashwath Nagar and construction of culverts in CIL. Layout, Lottegollahalli Village Venkatachari Nagara Bhovi colony in ward No.61, Radhakrishna Temple. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 25,000/-.**
17	At Cholanayakanahalli Kuthigrama and Gosai Slum and Surrounding Areas in ward No 63, Hebbal. **Est. Cost: Rs. 90 lakhs. EMD : RS. 90,000/-.**
18	In Yagappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 64, V. Nagenahalli. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 95,000/-.**
19	At Dharmanna Garden and Kenchappa Block and Surrounding Areas in ward No 66, Chamudindinagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 70 lakhs. EMD : RS. 70,000/-.**
20	In LD Block and Surrounding Areas n Ward No 67, Ganganagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 25,000/-.**
21	At Anandappa Block and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 68, J.C Nagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 100 lakhs. EMD : RS. 75,000/-.**
	Reserved for ST
22	In Nagashettyhalli Basaveshwara Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 62, Sanjaynagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 90 lakhs. EMD : RS. 90,000/-.**
	Reserved for CAT-II(A)
23	In Seethappa Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 65, Manorayanapalya. **Est. Cost: Rs. 95 lakhs. EMD : RS. 95,000/-.**
24	In Nanjamma Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 65, Manorayanapalya. **Est. Cost: Rs. 60 lakhs. EMD : RS. 60,000/-.**
25	In Muthappa Block and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 67, Ganganagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 80 lakhs. EMD : RS. 80,000/-.**
26	At 1st Block RT Nagar and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 68, J C Nagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 25,000/-.**
27	At 2nd Block RT Nagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No 68, JC Nagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 25,000/-.**
	Reserved for CAT-I
28	At Dinnur and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 68, J C Nagara. **Est. Cost: Rs. 75 lakhs. EMD : RS. 75,000/-.**
29	At Nandiview Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No 68, JC Nagar. **Est. Cost: Rs. 25 lakhs. EMD : RS. 25,000/-.**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19.08.2025 onwards. 2)** Pre-Bid Meeting: **26.08.2025 at 03:00 PM. 3)** Last date for submission of Tender: **02.09.2025 upto 04:00 PM. 4)** Date of opening of Technical Bids : **03.09.2025 after 04:30 PM. 5)** Date of opening of Financial Bids : **04.09.2025 after 05:00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and office of the Undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hebbal Division.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, MR. MANOJ KUMAR PAL s/o Late. Sri. Dhirendra Kumar Pal & **MRS. NANDITA PAL** w/o Mr. Manoj Kumar Pal are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owners. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office as shown below **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 49/8 (Old Sy. No. 49),** measuring to an extent of **0-05.12 Guntas,** situated at Halasahalli Tippasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on:
East by : Pathway of 25 feet;
West by: Portion of Plantation land in Sy. No.49;
North by: Portion of Plantation land in Sy. No.49;
South by: Plantation land in Sy. No. 49/18;

Dated this 19th day of August 2025 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102, Phone: 080-65555914, Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered to a Memorandum of Understanding dated 08/08/2025 for purchase of the house property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder with its present owners **Sri. Shrikanth Bhaskar** and **Smt. Shubha Nataraj,** both residing at No.519, Shubhashree, 15th Main, 7th Cross, Near BDA Complex, Koramangala 3rd Block, Bangalore-560034, who have represented that they are the lawful co-owners in possession of the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objectiones subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present co-owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the I louse property measuring East to West 28.90 X 18.30 sq. mtrs., North to South 8.81 X 5.58 sq. mtrs., totally measuring an extent of about 528.87 sq. mtrs., (5,693 sq. ft.) together with a residential building constructed thereon comprised in Ground and First Floor measuring a built up area of about 3288.25 sq. ft., bearing Municipal No.519 and assigned E-PID No.9069517099 by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), situated at 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 and bounded on the:
East by : Road
West by : Property bearing Municipal No.522
North by: Property bearing Municipal No.520
South by: Property bearing Municipal No.518

ARVIND RAGHAVAN ADVOCATE
#48, "Ishita" 3"I Floor, 2" MAIN ROAD, VYALIKAVAL, BANGALORE-560 003
E-mail: arvind_ncsr@lyahoo.com

Bangalore
Date:19/08/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to purchase the agricultural land morefully setout in the schedule given below and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property", from its owners 1) Sri. D.V. Gangadhar, Aged about 61 years, Son of late Sri. D. Venkataramanappa, 2) Smt. L. Mahalakshmi, Aged about 56 years, Wife of Sri. D.V. Gangadhar, and 3) Sri. Ravikumar G., Aged about 36 years, Son of Sri. D.V. Gangadhar, all of the above residing at No.315/6, 10th Cross, Near Agadi Hospital, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru – 560027 ("Owners") through the Agreement holders, 1) Mr. Khaleelur Rahaman Sharief, Aged about 48 years, Son of Mr. Abdul Rahman and 2) Mrs. Salma Tarannum, Aged about 39 years, Wife of Mr. Khaleelur Rahaman Sharief, Both residing at Door No.429, Flat No.T2, A Sector, 9th A Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064 under the Agreement of Sale dated 27.11.2024 (Registered as DBP-1-11766-2024-25, in the Office of the Sub-registrar, Doddaballapur). Any person/s whomsoever having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner or objecting to such sale in favour of our client should write to the undersigned within **Seven (07) days** of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing their rights with regard to the Schedule Property. If no claims or objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that the Schedule Property is free from all charges, liens, vested interest, rights, claims or encumbrances whatsoever of any nature and our client shall proceed to complete the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.206 (earlier portion of Sy.No.107), measuring 01 Acre 37 guntas, situated at Shivapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and Bengaluru Rural District and bounded as follows :-

On or towards the East by : Land in Sy.No.205 (earlier portion of Sy.No.107);
On or towards the West by : Land in Sy.No.207 (earlier portion of Sy.No.107);
On or towards the North by : Doddaballapur Devanahalli Road;
On or towards the South by : Village boundary of Raghunathapura.

Together with all easement rights, water courses and right of access, etc.

Harish Sathya, Sathya and Co.
Advocates and Legal Consultants
#57, 1st floor, 7th Cross, Central Street, Kumara Park West, Bangalore 560020.
Ph: +91 80 41158500 / 9880060116
E-mail: harish@sathyaandco.com

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2025-26/1285 Date: 16.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under various for 24 works (Indent No: 16536/Call-2, 14656/Call-3. 18115,18117,18120,16991,16987,17772, 18939, 14390, 18104, 18111,18118, 18119, 18112, 18123, 18124, 18126, 17914, 18127, 17940, 18072, 14383, 10728) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.5.60 lakhs Maximum 200.00 lakhs Total Rs:898.10 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-
(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 25.08.2025: Time: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender (Below 1 Crore) Date: 26.08.2025: Time: 11.00 **(3)** Last Date for Submitting the tender (More than 1 Crore) Date: 02.09.2025: Time: 16.00 Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000 or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.290:DIPR/CTA/ KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, South, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE(QA/QC)/South/TEND/09/2025-26 **Date: 18-08-2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - (CALL-2)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division (South), BBMP invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for "Development and Revitilisation of Vijayanagar Cultural Bouleward in Ward No. 145 - Vijayanagara, 146 - Hosahalli and 147 - Hampinagara." **Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 600.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20-08-2025. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **25-08-2025 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **30-08-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **01-09-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division
South, BBMP.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-73) O.S No. 26271/2023

BETWEEN: 1. SRI. KARTHIK S RAJU, S/o Sunder Raju, Aged: 24 years.
2. SRI KAUSHIK S RAJU S/o Sunder Raju, Aged: 22 years, Both residing at 294, 16th Cross, Sadashiva Nagar, Bangalore-560086. **...PLAINTIFFS**
AND : H.N PRABHAKAR & ORS .....DEFENDANTS

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20

DEFENDANT NO.2(a): SRI.SANDESH S/o Late.H.N.Ramesh, Aged major Hebbal, Bangalore-560024, R/a No.15, 4th C Main Road
DEFENDANT NO.2(b). SMT. JASWANTHI D/o Late H.N.Ramesh, Aged Major R/a No.15, 4th C Main Road Hebbal, Bangalore- 560024.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiffs have filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 & 2 of Civil Procedure Code, 1908 praying grant of permanent injunction restraining the Defendants jointly and severally from alienating and creating third party encumbrance on the schedule property, of permanent injunction restraining the defendants jointly and severally from changing the nature of the schedule property and to pass a decree to register the suit schedule property in favour of plaintiffs the details of which is mentioned in the schedule hereunder and to pass any other order as the Hon'ble Court deems fit. You are hereby called upon to appear before the LXXII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-73), Mayo Hall, Bangalore either **in person or by pleader duly instructed, on 04th day of September, 2025 at 11:00 AM** and to show cause against the Plaintiffs, failing which it will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF H.N.PRABHAKAR:- All that piece and parcel of 0.74 gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/7 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East :** Property of H.N.Ramesh in Sy.No.66/2, **West :** Private Property, **North :** Property of Smt. H.N.Nagamani in Sy.No.66/2, **South :** Rajakaluve
SCHEDULE OF H.N.RAMESH :- All that piece and parcel of 0.7% gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East :** Private Property, **West :** Property of H.N.Prabhakar Sy.No.66/2, **North :** Property of H.N.Harish Sy.No.66/2, **South:** Rajakaluve.
SCHEDULE OF H.N.HAREESH:- All that piece and parcel of 0.74 gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:** Private Property, **West:** Property of Smt. Nagamani and Smt. Padmavathi of Sy.No.66/2, **North:** Munivenkatappa's Property, **South:** Property of H.N.Ramesh of Sy.No.66/2
SCHEDULE OF Smt. NAGAMANI : All that piece and parcel of 0.2 1½ gunta of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:** Property of H.N.Harish in Sy.No.66/2, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Property of Smt. Padmavathamma in Sy.No.66/2, **South:** Property of H.N.Prabhakar in Sy.No.66/2.
SCHEDULE OF Smt.PADMAVATHAMMA:- All that piece and parcel of 0.5 - guntas of land in land bearing Sy.No.66/2 situated at Hebbal Village, Kasaba-2 Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East:** Property of H.N.Harish in Sy.No.66/2, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Munivenkatappa's Property, **South:** Property of Smt. Nagamani in Sy.No.66/2.

Address for service
Kreioz Legal
No.207 & 208 Regency Enclave, Magrath Road

By the Order of the Court,Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

9th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001. **Telephone:** 080-22866302 / 22867172 **Fax:** 080-22863576 /22861665 **Email:** sedmatech@gmail.com **Website:** www.municipaladmn.gov.in

No: 1802916 DMA/TECH/MGNV/31/2025 **Dated: 18.08.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tenders are invited in KPP Portal for Infrastructure Development works under Mahatma Gandhi Nagara Vikasa Yojane (Phase-2) Scheme as per UIDF guidelines in Belagavi Mangalore, Hubballi-Dharwada, Kalaburagi and Tumkuru City corporation limits. The details are as follows.

Sl. No	Work Indent No.	Project cost (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38452- ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4700.00
2.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38534- ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4975.00
3.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42312- ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4690.00
4.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42585- ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4440.00
5.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT46382- ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	2616.00
6.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT42394- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	887.00
7.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT43742- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4200.00
8.	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT45366- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	4023.00
9.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46668 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1390.00
10.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46667 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1340.00
11.	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46771 ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ	1585.00

The interested and qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date indicated in the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained through KPP portal.

Sd/-
Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2366/Zen/2025-26

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For detailed terms & conditions, visit www.mahindraelectricsuv.com/tnc.html

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